MEMOIRS

OF THE

Chevalier de * * * *

A NOVEL.

Tranſlated from the FRENCH.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Cooke, at Shakeſpear's Head, behind the Chapter-Houſe, in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

MDCCLX.

This Day is publiſhed,

In Two handſome Pocket Volumes, Price 5s. ſew'd, or 6s. neatly bound,

AGENOR and ISMENA:

OR

The WAR of the TENDER PASSIONS.

A NOVEL.

Tranſlated from the FRENCH.

Friendſhip and Love when each alike controul,
Kindle a ſoft Commotion in the Soul;
'Till reconcil'd the tender Paſſions blend,
Exalt the Lover and improve the Friend.

Printed for J. COOKE, behind the Chapter-Houſe.

The Authors of the *Critical Review*, ſpeaking of this Performance, ſay, "The Author of AGENOR and 'ISMENA, pleaſes by a Prettineſs of Style, and a "Softneſs of Manners—which the Tranſlator ſeems to "have copied very happily, &c.

BIBL CANT ACAD

THE

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THESE memoirs were written in conſequence of a converſation, wherein marriage was the topic; and where the whole company with one general voice complained, that a bond which ought to conſtitute the happineſs of life, was now become the ſource of all its diſquiet. Some aver'd that all the inconveniencies of marriage aroſe merely from the nature of its confinement. Others advanced, that theſe vexations proceeded not from the nature of the matrimonial bond, but becauſe this bond was formed in conſequence of motives little proper to render the union happy. That all our preſent marriages were the reſult of in-

tereſt and policy alone. That people married at preſent without any previous acquaintance with each other. Was it aſtoniſhing then, that they ſhould love without loving each other? A third party pretended, that ſuch as have been uſually termed love matches, ſucceeded yet leſs happily than the others; that the paſſion which had formed them, being ſoon exhauſted; and the fancy, which always runs far beyond, and exceeds the reality of thoſe pleaſures which it propoſes to itſelf, now diſcovering the cheat, either left the heart expoſed to the diſguſt, or tempted it to inconſtancy. It would be of no uſe to repeat here every thing that was ſaid upon the ſubject. Such converſations are common enough, and we very nearly know all that may be advanced in favour, or againſt the propoſition. One ſentiment however to which the whole world ſubſcribes, is, that intereſt ought for ever to be baniſhed from the preliminaries of our marriages, and ſhould never be permitted

mitted in the leaſt to direct our choice. That violent love alone could make but very indifferent matches; and that friendſhip only, or if you pleaſe, a love founded upon virtue, and the amiable qualities, complacency, equality of humour, attentive regards, and reciprocal anticipations, could alone be capable of forming an agreeable and laſting union. That two perſons who intermarried, ought to be ſuch in mind and temper, as to have been capable of thinking themſelves happy in having the opportunity of ſpending their lives together, even although there had not been any difference of ſex between them. They enlarged much upon the happineſs of ſuch a union; and greatly lamented that even in this ſtate there was an inevitable misfortune always to be dreaded, which is death.---Upon this occaſion, a gentleman of the company recited the adventures which are to be found in the following pages.---He was deſired to commit them to writing; he promiſed it; and added, that in order to acquit himſelf

himſelf the better of it, he would pay a viſit to monſieur the Marquis de T-----; and would requeſt him to repeat, in a more ample manner, the particulars of this hiſtory.---It is averred that he has ſo exquiſitely well remembered every circumſtance, that on this account theſe memoirs are written, as if from the marquis's own mouth, who appears himſelf as the relator of his own hiſtory.

THE

THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THE following memoirs appeared abroad in the original French about ſixteen years ago; and are ſaid to have found a happy reception among the delicate and polite part of that nation, that has for many years prided itſelf in furniſhing us with ſuch an amazing variety of memoirs, novels, and romances.---They contain the adventures of ſome eminent perſons, as noble by their birth as eſtimable for their manners; aud although we are not permitted to inſert their titles, yet the publick may be aſſured, that every particular in theſe relations is founded upon real fact, and genuine hiſtory.

It would be an unpardonable inſolence in a private individual to pretend to

to dictate to the judgment of his readers. I ſhall not therefore, by pompous encomiums on this work, preſume to regulate the opinion, and the ſentence of the public. Be it only permitted me in few words to ſay, that theſe memoirs in queſtion being confined to the occurrences of two years only, cannot be ſuppoſed to contain ſuch a variety of adventures as may be found in moſt of our modern novels and romances; under which denomination may be comprized the far greater part even of our memoirs, and hiſtories of lives; whoſe authenticity may be placed upon a par with the delectable hiſtory of the Devil upon two Sticks. In like manner, here is little to be ſeen of the hurry of the world; of the deep-laid ſchemes of avarice and ambition; of the narrow craft and cunning of the citizen; nor of the extenſive politicks and diſſimulation of the ſtateſman; but all here is pure nature, and undiſguiſed ſimplicity. The language is the language of the heart;

the

the ſentiments are juſt, delicate, and tender; all is ſoftneſs and delicacy of manners. It is true that the occurences are few, but they are deeply intereſting; and ſuch as happily lay open all the ſoft paſſions and movements of the ſoul.

Gentle reader, to ſay more, would be to affront thy ſagacity; let it ſuffice then to ſay, that if thoſe ſheets afford thee but a part of that ſatisfaction in reading, which I have found in tranſlating them, thou wilt no more repent of thy labour in the peruſal, than I do to have been,

The TRANSLATOR.

MEMOIRS

MEMOIRS, &c.

To Monſieur de ———.

SIR,

I Beg leave to offer you, in the following ſheets, thoſe memoirs which you have deſired of me; I have diſturbed the felicity of my preſent ſtate, by recalling to my thoughts, the remembrance of thoſe afflictions which I have undergone, in order to obey your commands. You will not in this recital meet with any thing of the marvellous; but the intereſt which you are ſo obliging as to take in every

BIBL CANT ACAD

thing that concerns me, may induce you to find ſomething agreeable in the peruſal of it; and its ſingularity will intereſt you even for theſe particulars which do not regard me in the leaſt.

I have here annexed the adventures of the count de L----- which have no other relation to my own, than by the utility which I have experienced in the counſels that I have received from him; theſe adventures have deeply moved me; they may perhaps, equally operate on your compaſſion; but be that as it will, Sir, I deſire you to regard what I have written you, in no other light, than as a proof of my earneſt deſire to give you all the ſatisfaction in the power of

S I R,

Your moſt obliged
humble Servant,
De T——

The Commencement of the Memoirs.

MY father having diſſipated a conſiderable ſhare of his fortune in the ſervice of the crown, and finding the remainder in the greateſt diſorder and

and confuſion, when the peace of Ryſwick gave him liberty to retire, withdrew to reſide for the future upon his eſtate.

The nobility of his family, one of the moſt antient in all Dauphiny; and his extraordinary merit, joined to a very amiable figure, engaged the widow of a gentleman of Languedoc, to follow him to the altar:——The husband of this lady had left her heireſs to a very conſiderable eſtate; but ſhe had the reputation of being of an inſupportable temper; notwithſtanding which, my father, tormented and harraſſed by his mercileſs creditors, gave no ſort of attention to the voice of the public, but married her.

At the end of the firſt year, ſhe was delivered of a ſon, ſince known by the name of the marquis de T---. She continued four years after this, without another pregnancy; but in the fifth, ſhe brought me into the world.----My mother entertained the moſt extraordinary and partial affection for my brother, her eldeſt ſon: my father frequently obſerved to her, that her in-

dulgence would intirely ſpoil him; I very ſenſibly felt, in the courſe of my life, the exceſs of her aſtoniſhing partiality.

The behaviour of my mother, with reſpect to me, was, from my early infancy, matter of great concern to my father: this circumſtance, inſtead of diminiſhing his tenderneſs for me, greatly augmented it.----It is the natural effect which my misfortune might be expected to produce, in a heart ſo well formed as that of my father.

My mother had one ſiſter, who, like herſelf, had married a gentleman of the province of Languedoc; and, with a fate reſembling that of my mother, had likewiſe been left the widow, and the heireſs of her huſband.---We received letters from Niſmes, the place of my aunt's reſidence, that ſhe was taken extremely ill. On this occaſion, my mother having repreſented to my father, how requiſite it was for our intereſts, that ſhe ſhould go to ſee her, ſhe ſet out upon her journey, and arrived time enough to perſuade her ſiſter to make

make a will, by which ſhe deviſed her whole eſtate intirely to my brother; my mother chuſing rather to deprive herſelf of the enjoyment of this fortune, than to ſee me ſhare the ſucceſſion jointly with my brother.

As ſoon as the affair of the inheritance was determined, my mother returned into Dauphiny, and gave my father a particular account of my aunt's laſt will, and of the diſpoſition of her effects.----He diſcovered immediately from what quiver the arrow was drawn that had hurt me in my aunt's eſteem; and he was, on my account, extremely touched with the injuſtice of ſuch behaviour.

I was then about ſeventeen years old, and ſaw with deep concern that predilection which my mother had for my brother: the chagrin which this partiality of affection gave my father, made me feel in a yet more lively manner the injuſtice of her behaviour.

My brother had reſided at Paris, in the muſqueteers of the guard, about five years: at the death of my aunt, my

mother purchaſed for him the regiment of R---- and ſhe had always taken particular care to furniſh him with ſuch ſupplies of money as enabled him to live in a magnificent and expenſive manner. As for me, I was always confined at home, with my father : one morning, I ſaw him enter my chamber, with a paper in his hand :--" My child, " ſaid he, we muſt now part; there is " a letter which I have this minute re- " ceived from my ſiſter; ſhe deſires me " to ſend you to her at Paris; and pro- " miſes to charge herſelf with the care " of your fortune."———

This ſiſter of my father's was Madam de C----- ſhe had married a perſon of exceſſive wealth, who was engaged in traffic. My mother reproached her with indelicacy, and want of ſenſe, for marrying a man of a rank inferior to her own; and from thence took an opportunity to juſtify the contempt ſhe expreſſed for the one as well as the other.—

My father told me, that he was juſt then going to ſit down to anſwer the letter: and that in eight days time I ſhould

ſhould proceed on my journey. His letter will ſhew you, Sir, what were his ſentiments at that time with reſpect to myſelf.---You will perceive that his tenderneſs made him blind to my imperfections, and heightened the few good qualities I was then poſſeſſed of; but it is a father who ſpeaks:---his letter was as follows:

To Madam de C----

'I embrace, my dear ſiſter, your 'kind offers for the Chevalier's ſervice, 'and I ſend him to you. I recommend 'not to you the care of his fortune, as I 'well know the generoſity of your ſen-'timents; they are more important, more 'particular cares, that I demand of you: 'inſtruct him in what manner he muſt 'conduct himſelf in that labyrinth 'which he is juſt going to enter.---He 'is worthy of your generoſity; truth, 'virtue and ſweetneſs form his charac-'ter; but with all this, he has his imper-'fections; and I cannot but charge my 'ſelf with having been the occaſion of 'them. That ſolidity which I have re-

'marked in his way of thinking, has
'induced me to treat him rather as my
'friend than as my ſon: I have made
'him the confident of all my domeſtic
'grievances: this has given a melan-
'choly turn to his fancy:---He is of a
'diſpoſition naturally inclined to re-
'flexion; he thinks with delicacy, and
'upon the leaſt accident that happens
'to ſhock that delicacy, he aſſumes a
'melancholy, gloomy air, which with
'a ſtranger would paſs for a proof of a
'moroſe diſpoſition.----Convince him,
'my dear ſiſter, of the neceſſity of
'granting ſome indulgence to the petty
'foibles of the world around us, but
'without making a ſacrifice of our vir-
'tue to our politeneſs. He ſtands in
'need of your inſtructions to enable him
'to acquire the love of the world; his
'gravity would affright and diſguſt ſuch
'perſons as are nearly of his own age.
'You will diſcover in him, the pic-
'ture of that brother whom we have
'had the misfortune to loſe, and whoſe
'loſs we ſhall ever lament; his com-
'plexion is a little more brown, but his
'features are exactly the ſame; he has

'the

'the ſame tender look, wherein was
'expreſſed with ſo much grace, that
'lively gratitude, for the moſt trifling
'ſervices that were done him. Grant
'him your friendſhip, my beloved ſiſter,
'he is my other ſelf: you are convinced
'of the ſtrength of my attachment to
'you, love him equally with the moſt
'tender and affectionate of your friends,
'who is your brother

The Marquis de T——

The condition in which I well knew I was going to leave my father, prevented me from enjoying this beginning of my good fortune.---He is going, ſaid I to myſelf, to reſign himſelf up to the violence of his ſorrow----He was accuſtomed to alleviate his afflictions by relating them to me; and now that I leave him alone to his ſorrows, without a friend to liſten to his complaints, he will ſink perhaps beneath the burthen.

I ſpent the eight days which I had yet to paſs with him, in reflexions of this kind: the evening preceding the day of my departure, my father led me with him after ſupper, into his cloſet.--'To-

'morrow, ſaid he, you will ſet for-
'wards on your journey; I ſhould re-
'peat to you the counſels which I have
'already given you, were I not perfectly
'acquainted with the merit of my ſiſter.
'Follow exactly the advice which ſhe
'ſhall give you: I have given her in my
'letters a deſcription of your character
'and diſpoſition:---I teſtify before her
'and the whole world, the affection and
'eſteem I have for you. Remember, my
'ſon, the tenderneſs with which I have
'always treated you; the only acknow-
'ledgement which I demand of you in
'return, is to merit by your ſentiments,
'and your conduct, the approbation and
'praiſe of the good and worthy; this
'will be my conſolation in the midſt
'of all my chagrin.---Behave with re-
'ſpect to Monſieur de C—; endeavour
'to acquire his friendſhip; and conduct
'yourſelf prudently; my ſiſter has a
'daughter about your own age, of whom
'the world ſpeaks highly: you will be
'every day in her preſence; be careful
'of yourſelf, my ſon. I know that you
'have great ſenſibility; and in conſe-
'quence that you cannot eaſily be un-

'grateful ;---remember, that you duty 'to Madam de C---- ought to regulate 'your conduct with reſpect to her daugh-'ter."

I aſſured my father, that I would give him a convincing proof of the deſire which I had to render myſelf worthy of his goodneſs, by the punctuality with which I ſhould always follow his inſtructions. 'You will go, added he, from 'hence, to take leave of your mother. 'As ſoon as you ſhall be arrived at Paris, 'fail not immediately to go and viſit 'your brother; but do not form any 'greater intimacy with him, than 'what is barely neceſſary to preſerve the 'brotherly union between you both: 'follow not his example, although he 'may have the eſteem of the public; and 'remember, that the life he leads at 'Paris, is by no means agreeable to 'me. Adieu, my ſon, adieu! Receive 'the vows and prayers which I am now 'offering for your happineſs."--

I threw myſelf into his arms, and continued there near a quarter of an hour; I had never paſſed any one day of my life without ſeeing him, and now

it appeared as if I was parting from him for ever.

At length, I was obliged to leave him; I retired from his cloſet with precipitation. I then went to wait upon my mother, who received me with an aſtoniſhing air of coldneſs:---I wiſh, you, my ſon, ſaid ſhe, a good journey; you will give your brother this embrace for me. I approached near her to kiſs her hand, and ſhe embraced me, which ſhe had never done before.

On my retiring from her apartment, I went to bed, and at four o'clock in the morning, I quitted my father's houſe, oppreſſed with the greateſt ſorrow and anxiety.

After ſeveral days travel, being arrived at the foreſt of Senars, which is not above five leagues from Paris, I found myſelf ſo fatigued with the exceſſive heat of the day (for we were then in the month of June) that I alighted from my horſe, to repoſe myſelf at the foot of a tree.---I diſcovered a ſpot ſo ſhady that the ſun could not pierce through the cover, and ordered my Valet de Chambre, who attended me,

to

to wait for me. As I was taking my ſeat, I heard the ſound of voices; and perceived that it was women in converſation; this arouſed my curioſity, I liſtened attentively, and heard one of the women ſpeak in this manner:

'On what can we depend? He was 'yeſterday as it were the favourite of 'the prince; the courtiers came in crowds 'around him; at night he is diſgraced, 'and all the world avoid his company: '---It is not becauſe he is a relation of 'mine, that I allow him to be a perſon 'of merit, it is a juſtice that all the 'world pay him.'-----'He has not 'merited his diſgrace; replied another 'lady; and therefore he will live in the 'enjoyment of a happy tranquillity: 'When we are conſcious of our own 'innocence, there is no difficulty in 'determining how to behave under 'calumny.' 'You are in the right, re-'turned ſhe who had firſt ſpoken; but 'how melancholy muſt it be for a per-'ſon of his delicate way of thinking, to 'experience ſuch a reverſe of fortune, 'as he has juſt ſuffered!----It is a proof 'of the greateſt folly in mankind to

'ſearch

'ſearch for their happineſs in uncertain
'honours:---For my own part, I think
'that in order to be happy, there is no-
'thing more required than to have a
'fortune equal to our ſtate in life; a
'ſociety of a certain number of friends,
'on whom we may place our confi-
'dence and reliance; and never to have
'any occaſion for their ſervices, in or-
'der to avoid the pain of being con-
'vinced, that we did wrong, to place
'our dependence on them.—If M. de
'—— had led ſuch a life as I have been
'deſcribing, he would now have found
'himſelf in the enjoyment of a perfect
'tranquillity.'

'There is a ſtate, replied the other
'lady, which I ſhould prefer to that
'which you have ſo agreeably deſcribed:
'I ſhould conſole myſelf for the chagrins
'which might fall to my lot, if they
'would but give me an opportunity of
'diſcovering, and acquiring a true and
'perfect friend; a trial which can never
'be made, but in adverſity alone: the
'ſituation which you deſcribe gives in-
'deed a tranquillity to the mind; but
'the other fills and ſatisfies the heart; and

'we

'we never are happy, but when the 'heart is pleaſed and ſatisfied."

At this inſtant, a man came to acquaint them, that the company waited for them, in order to depart.

The converſation, which I had juſt overheard, made a ſurpriſing impreſſion on me, without my being able to give any reaſon for it.—I had liſtened to the diſcourſe of theſe ladies, with abundance of attention; I admired the wit of the firſt, and the ſentiments of the latter.—Her diſcourſe was directed to the heart itſelf; I found myſelf affected, and inſtead of following their ſteps, to endeavour to diſcover their quality and names, I remained fixed on my ſeat, in a confuſion and trouble which I had never before experienced. But at length, perceiving that the ſun was going to ſet, and I was under a neceſſity of arriving at Paris early in the evening, I remounted my horſe, highly occupied with meditating on what I had juſt heard: the ſoft accents of the voice of the lady who had laſt ſpoken, ſeemed yet to beat upon my raviſh'd ear.

I alighted from my horſe, at the houſe of Madam de C—-. Notwithſtanding the great company that I found there with her, I eaſily diſcovered that lady from all her viſiters, by the portrait which my father had given me of her:—I ſaw in her, a lady about forty years of age, of a fair complexion, and a regular beauty; to which ſhe added an air that commanded reſpect from all who beheld her.—Here, Sir, I am going to deſcribe her character to you, ſuch as it has been acknowledged by all the world; and ſuch as it has been confirmed to me, by the conſtant tenor of her conduct.—She deteſted all diſſimulation, becauſe ſhe loved virtue with great ſincerity; ſhe had an excellent judgment, ſolid, firm, without obſtinacy; juſtly diſtinguiſhing what we ought to excuſe in others, without an exceſs of complaiſance; and what we ought to blame, without appearing moroſe; an amiable and a real friend, having never let ſlip any conſiderable opportunity, wherein ſhe could ſhew thoſe whom ſhe eſteemed worthy of that title, her true and noble way of thinking; nor ever neglected

neglected thoſe little marks of attention and reſpect, which give a reliſh to the charms of friendſhip.

Tears came into her eyes, when ſhe embraced me;—'I wiſh, ſaid ſhe to 'me, that you may reſemble, in your 'humour, and diſpoſition, that dear 'brother, of whom death has deprived 'me, as much as you reſemble him in 'perſon.'

The company was all engaged at play; Madam de C— bid me go with her into her husband's cloſet. I attended her thither; and he behaved to me with the greateſt politeneſs:—-Monſieur de C—— appeared to me, to be a gentleman of great and real merit.----He was eſteemed by the world, which accuſed him of no other fault but that of entertaining too high an opinion of perſons above his own rank; and ſhewing too much reſpect to the title of a marquis, or an earl, which indeed did but augment his kindneſs towards myſelf.

Madam de C--- had ordered one of her ſervants to go, aud acquaint her daughter of my arrival; a moment after ſhe came down to us.--" See here,

my

'my daughter,' ſaid Madam de C----, addreſſing herſelf to me.------I advanced to ſalute her; ſhe anſwered the compliments I made her, with graces impoſſible to be expreſſed; her voice gave me an emotion like that which I had felt in the foreſt of Senars; I fancied that I knew it, and I was not deceived.

If the converſation in the foreſt had made ſo deep an impreſſion upon me in favour of a perſon unknown; judge, Sir, of the effect which the preſence of Mademoiſelle de C--- produced in me, for ſhe was the very perſon. I am now going to give her portrait.---She was not ſo tall as Madam de C--- her mother; although ſhe had a very noble air, yet ſhe had not quite ſo much majeſty in it: her's was not a perfect regular beauty, but her features all together formed a moſt charming countenance:----Her complexion was brown; her eyes of the moſt beautiful blue that can be imagined; and of a ſweetneſs that was truly enchanting; they announced indeed the qualities of her mind, and the tranquillity of her heart.---Her whole phyſiognomy was nothing but an aſſemblage

blage of graces, of ſpirit, and of ſweetneſs. As for her character, there never was any thing yet more compleat: every thing there was perfectly conſonant to her lovely looks.-----What ſhe ſpoke, without the leaſt time for premeditation, was as juſt, and as much to the point, as thoſe ſpeeches that were the reſult of the deepeſt reflexion: ſhe talked little, but her ſlighteſt ſpeeches gave us ſufficient proofs of the ſolidity of her judgment, and the delicacy of her ſentiments; ſhe thought well of the whole world, becauſe her own heart, naturally virtuous, made her judge of others by her own ſentiments.

You may judge what ſo good a diſpoſition ought to have produced, when cultivated by the cares and tenderneſs of a mother ſo reſpectable as was Madam de C---. If her daughter's diſcourſe, and the ſound of her voice, had ſo ſtrongly affected me before I knew her, how dangerous muſt it have been for me to ſee her; and how many ſorrows have I experienced in conſequence of it?

My brother had dined with Madam de C--- ; at going away he had ordered one of his ſervants to come and acquaint him with my arrival the moment it ſhould happen. We had not ſeen one another for five years ; but we expreſſed abundance of love and eſteem for each other ; his behaviour was infinitely agreeable to me ; an air of gaiety and freedom prepoſſeſſed one in his favour. He was very tall, and thin ; carried his head aloft, had fine features, and a lively phyſiognomy.---After aſking me a few queſtions concerning my father and my mother, he left me, and told me in excuſe, that he was engaged to ſupper ; he then embraced me, aſſuring me, that he would come again the next morning, to paſs the whole day with me.

When I was alone with Madam de C--- ſhe queſtioned me concerning the education I had received. I had been under a preceptor, from whoſe care, by the attentions of my father, I had received much benefit. I gave her an account of my progreſs, and among other particulars, I told her, that I had a very great paſſion for painting, and that I had

had been flattered with having ſometimes happily ſucceeded in my attempts that way :---' You ſhall have the ſame ' maſters with my daughter, ſaid ſhe ; ' and in particular, an excellent drawing maſter ; you ſhall both take your ' leſſons together. This will give you ' emulation."

They came now to let her know that ſupper was upon the table, which put an end to our converſation.---During the repaſt, Madam de C---- told me, that ſhe deſigned to demand for me, from my brother, the firſt lieutenancy that ſhould be vacant in his regiment. I will require of him, added ſhe, that he ſhall leave you this year with me ; I have charged myſelf with the care of you, and I expect that you will do me that honour.--When ſupper was over, I led her to her apartment, and accompanied Mademoiſelle de C--- to her's, which was oppoſite to the chamber which had been appointed for myſelf.

Felix, (which was the name of the Valet de Chambre whom I had brought with me) told me, while he was undreſſing

dreſſing me, that we were very near meeting with Mademoiſelle de C---- on the road; that ſhe had been to dinner at Mongeron, and had walked for a long time in the foreſt of Senars; and that ſhe did not get back to Paris above an hour before our arrival.—This diſcourſe threw me into a profound reverie.---- I made no anſwer to Felix, but haſtily threw myſelf into bed.---What he had juſt been telling me, confirmed the ſuſpicion which I had entertained, when I fancied that I diſcovered the voice of Mademoiſelle de C--- to be the ſame which had ſo much delighted me in the foreſt of Senars. Here was employment enough for my thoughts for that whole night. The counſels which I had received from my father, with reſpect to this lovely young lady, now returned to my remembrance: this was the advice that was moſt neceſſary for me, cried I to myſelf; his forecaſt has made him diſcover at a diſtance, the dangers to which I was going to be expoſed.---I promiſed myſelf to follow his directions; and then compoſed myſelf to reſt.

The

The next morning, as ſoon as I was dreſſed, I waited on Madam de C----, who being alone, obliged me to inform her of all my father's cares and uneaſineſſes: I am greatly diſquieted, ſaid ſhe, upon his account; I tremble, leſt he ſhould ſuffer himſelf to ſink under his burthen; for it is much more difficult to ſupport with firmneſs, and equality of mind, little daily vexations, than much greater diſtreſs. Great misfortunes reanimate our virtue; but daily plagues impair it by degrees, and undermine it with ſucceſs.----I deſcribed to her the diſpoſition of my mother, and all that my father had ſuffered upon my account.---The vivacity of my diſcourſe ſeemed to give her pleaſure.---Chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me, I admire your character; anſwer the inclination which I feel for you, by your own behaviour, and I will take care of your fortune.

My brother now came in, and after ſaluting Madam de C---, he came to embrace me: you have greatly neglected your toilet this morning, Marquis, ſaid Madam de C---, to him. In effect, he had the air of a perſon who had intirely

tirely forgotten his dreſs, which was not very uſual with him; you do not make your appearance in this manner before Madam de B----, added ſhe. When you ſhall know madam, replied my brother, in a ſorrowful tone, all that has happened to me in the laſt twenty four hours, you will not be in the leaſt aſtoniſhed at ſeeing me in this condition.---I left you laſt night, to go and ſup at a houſe where I was invited; Madam de B--- was there, beautiful as an angel; that cool (inſenſible air, that you perfectly well know in her, that tender phyſiognomy, which for eight days paſt has inſpired me with ſo much love, now added yet greater force to the exceſs of my paſſion.----I ſat the whole ſupper-time in admiration of her charms; ſhe retired among the firſt that went away; when giving her my hand to lead her to the coach;---I adore you, Madam, ſaid I, will you never pity me for what I ſuffer upon your account?---Marquis, replied ſhe, you are not capable of loving, you are too variable and uncertain. I begged her to tell me, what proof ſhe required

of

quired of my love;----" Good night," ſaid ſhe, preſſing my hand.

I ſaw company behind me, and her coach moved off: I threw myſelf into my own coach, very much chagrined with what had juſt happened to me; that unſettled diſpoſition with which Madam de B--- had been reproaching me threw me into a fit of deſpair.

So long, ſaid I to myſelf, as ſhe ſhall entertain this opinion of me, ſhe will never make any return to the ſentiments which I have for her.---Full of vexation, I took a reſolution to go early this morning to her houſe, and to kill myſelf at her feet, if ſhe continued to treat me with the ſame indifference:--- I went to bed very late; as I was perſuaded that my diſquiet would awaken me full early, I had given no orders for any one to come into my chamber to call me, but as ſoon as I awaked I heard a clock ſtrike ten; I aroſe with precipitation, and my mind totally occupied with the reſolution I had taken.----I went to Madam de B---'s houſe: the agitation and diſorder of my thoughts

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made me forget, upon my entering, to inquire if ſhe was alone :---I went up to her apartment; but I ſaw not a ſingle perſon in it: as I was advancing towards her cloſet, I heard a prodigious noiſe of laughing; the contraſt this made with my preſent ſituation, ſoon brought me to a recollection :---In endeavouring to retire, I happened to make ſome noiſe, at which a young perſon came out of the cloſet, and asked me what I wanted? I replied, that I came to do myſelf the honour of paying my reſpects to Madam de B---. She is juſt now dreſſing, anſwered the ſame young perſon, but I will keep you company, and endeavour to entertain you till ſhe comes.

Admire with me, the caprices of the heart; I am now fallen in love with this young lady; I never ſaw her in my life before: I ſpent about a quarter of an hour in her company; ſhe is all gaiety in her converſation, all life in her wit; in ſhort, I never yet ſaw any thing ſo handſome.--When Madam de B--- at length came out of her cloſet, ſhe appeared quite inſipid, and with a coldneſs

coldneſs that perfectly froze me:----In fine, madam, I came out of this houſe with as much love as I had at my entrance into it: I have done nothing but change the object.----Love will always make me wretched, added he afterwards, with a ſigh. You have very great obligations to him to-day, replied Madam de C--- laughing; he has prevented you from being your own murderer, and I adviſe you for the future to moderate the vivacity of your paſſions.——I liſtened to my brother with an attention, and an aſtoniſhment, that he at length perceived. You have not yet experienced, ſaid he to me, what it is to love; you do not conceive how greatly I am to be pitied.

Mademoiſelle de C—— entered the room at this moment, and told her mother, that ſhe had engaged her maſters, according to her directions; ſhe ordered them to be introduced. See here, gentlemen, ſaid Madam de C——, a ſcholar, with whom you ſhall begin to-morrow. The one was a muſic maſter and the other a dancing maſter.

When we were at table, my brother related a multitude of adventures, which had happened among thoſe of his acquaintance :----I obſerved him to be greatly addicted to ſatyrical and ſcandalous reflexions; this character ſhocked me.—Your are exceeding grave, brother, ſaid he to me. I will carry you out a viſiting along with me, where you may divert yourſelf. I returned him thanks, with an aſſurance, that I was exceedingly happy in my preſent ſituation and reſidence.

Madam de C——, as long as my brother was talking, kept her eyes conſtantly fixed upon me. She asked him, if it was a great while ſince he had ſeen the dutcheſs of —— Yes, madam, a very long time, replied he to her; why do you neglect that fair lady, Marquis? cried Madam de C—— to him. She is ſo very grave, returned my brother, that when I viſit her for a moment ſhe makes me melancholy for the next twenty four hours.---I have heard her ſpoken of, ſaid I to my brother, as a lady of diſtinguiſhed merit. She is ſo, returned

returned he, but I muſt confeſs to you, that the character they give of her has taken off all the pleaſure that I could have enjoyed in making my court to her ; ſhe is a woman who has the reputation of being of ſo auſtere a virtue, that ſhe ſcares me.---I love nothing but the company of ſuch women as will give me leave to hope, when I am in love with them ; all the reſt, excepting you, ladies, ſaid he, addreſſing himſelf to Madam and Mademoiſelle de C---, are horribly tireſome.----I don't know how to entertain them. You think this a fault in me, ſaid he, looking upon me ; I acknowledge it ; but it is a fault too powerful for me to get the better of----I never make a ſecret of my own way of thinking ; I am neither a cheat or hypocrite ; all the world knows me in this particular.---You do no honour to the ladies you viſit, ſaid Madam de C---. Neither does this do them any wrong, replied my brother ; an amiable woman has it not in her power to hinder one from loving her ; and there can be

no ſort of harm in taking a pleaſure to hear one's ſelf told ſo.

The dinner time was ſpent in diſcourſes of this kind: every time that my brother directed his ſpeech to Mademoiſelle de C--- her anſwers gave him to underſtand, how little ſhe approved of his manner of thinking: I was enchanted at hearing it, attentive as I was to every thing that gave me a more perfect idea of her merit.

Madam de C—— having demanded of my brother the name of the lady whom he had ſeen in the morning; I have never thought anſwered he, of any thing but of adoring her; I am going, however, this moment to inform myſelf of her name.

When he was gone, Madam de C—— asked me what I thought of my brother? He has a way of thinking, madam, replied I, which to me appears highly ſingular; he ſeems to me to have wit, and a ſincerity with reſpect to his faults, which is very eſtimable; this ſhews a generous open heart.

heart. Have a care of what you ſay, Chevalier, returned Madam de C----, eſteem nothing but what is worthy to be eſteemed.-----The youth of thoſe days make a merit of openly acknowledging all their follies :--Nothing is ſo dangerous; it is ſhame alone that is capable of correcting them: when this confeſſion is made with ſo much facility, it does not even coſt them a bluſh; this frankneſs does in truth ſhow the man as he really is, but at the ſame time it ſhews him ſuch as he always will be.----He who endeavours not to get forwards on the road of virtue, is very near to going back on it.

I was convinced of the juſtneſs of Madam de C--'s diſcourſe. Every day I heard her delivering her ſentiments after the ſame manner, and in the ſame taſte, with the preceding. Wiſdom itſelf ſeemed blended in the counſels which ſhe gave me.----I went every morning to the apartment of Mademoiſelle de C--- to receive my leſſons, along with her, from my maſters; and I returned from thence every day more amorous

than before. I beheld with admiration every action of this lovely girl, every thing in her enchanted me: ſhe did not let drop a ſingle word that did not paint to me that very character which I adored, and which was not a ſource of pleaſures for me; her merit was the beſt juſtification of my love.---If my father did but know her, ſaid I, to myſelf, he would himſelf approve of my paſſion.--- The counſels which he had given me at parting, and of which he reminded me in all his letters, (altho' I had avoided in mine to ſpeak a word concerning Mademoiſelle de C--) gave me ſtrength enough to prevent my making any diſcovery of my paſſion: He did not forbid me loving, well knowing by experience, that counſels on this head are entirely uſeleſs; that they have no effect but upon the mind; and that the heart receives no laws but ſuch as are dictated by itſelf; but he charged me ſtrictly to obſerve, that I did not offend by any of my actions that gratitude which was particularly due from me to the

the goodneſs and generoſity of Madam de C---.

Among the vaſt numbers of perſons who came to her houſe, and who ſtiled themſelves the friends of Madam de C---, the Marquis de P--- was the perſon whom ſhe preferred to all the reſt, and with ſtrict juſtice; he was a man about ſixty years of age, very ill favoured, of a harſh, ſower look, but of a truly ſuperior genius; the juſtneſs of which was diſtinguiſhable by the clear and preciſe manner in which he always expreſſed himſelf.---I had heard him ſpoken of, as a man of an approved virtue. Madam de C---- ſoon gave me proofs that he very well merited all the good things that the world ſaid of him.

She deſired him one day to aſſiſt a young gentleman who had fought a duel, for which juſtice was going to call him to account. The Marquis de P--- ſet out immediately for Verſailles, and acted with ſo much vivacity, that in twenty four hours, he came to aſſure her, that the young fellow had no longer any thing to be afraid of: I was touched

the manner in which he had behaved on this occaſion; when he was gone, I told Madam de C--- that I believed Monſieur de P--- to be a real and true friend. It is impoſſible, ſaid I, to do a ſervice with more zeal and expedition than he has juſt now been exerting.

You have reaſon for ſaying ſo, Chevalier, ſaid Madam de C--- to me, but you know not yet all his merit; he is a man who has experienced every poſſible misfortune; his virtue has ſhone bright on every occaſion that has happen'd to him; he was perſecuted by the Mareſchal de ---- the whole time of his being in the ſervice; this hatred of the Mareſchal's aroſe from the preference which was given to Monſieur de P--- in prejudice of one of his relations, in the purchaſe of the regiment of --- of which he has long been colonel.--Notwithſtanding all the troubles which the Mareſchal occaſioned him, he has always been obſerved to ſhew as much diſcretion with reſpect to the unjuſt proceedings of the Mareſchal, as eagerneſs to do him that juſtice which he has merited by his

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ſervices to the king; having never given him the leaſt trouble but on one occaſion, wherein he was compelled to do it by the duty of his office.---The court charged him with the care of filling the magazines of the city of Metz, where his regiment lay in garriſon. The Mareſchal, who was then at Metz, inſpecting the fortifications, by agreement with the Intendant, permitted the corn to be carried off. Monſieur de P—— pretending to be perſuaded, that the Mareſchal was ignorant of what had paſſed, carried his complaints before him, and ſpoke to him with freedom and reſolution; the Mareſchal was piqued at this procedure, and replied to him, it is your buſineſs to look after thoſe things.—Monſieur de P——, whom no conſideration could ſwerve from his duty, wrote a memorial of the affair, and ſent it to the court.—The Intendant was recalled, and as he well knew from whence he received the blow, he took advantage of the opportunity which the diſputes of the family offered him, in order to revenge himſelf of Monſieur de P--. He ſided with

with his brothers againſt him, and ſu ceeded in his ſcheme; I ſaw the Marquis reduced from the enjoyment of an eſtate of fourſcore thouſand livres a year, to a poor thouſand crowns. At the beginning of the laſt campaign, he received ſo glaring a piece of injuſtice, that he determined to renounce the ſervice; three of his junior officers had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-generals, over his head; he complained of it to the miniſter, whoſe anſwer gave him ſufficiently to underſtand, that he muſt expect nothing from the court, and that he would be always ſacrificed to the reſentment of the Mareſchal, who, by his intereſt, had occaſioned the preference to be given to his rivals.—He ſerved the following campaign with his uſual zeal; and having ſignalized himſelf by a number of noble exploits, he quitted the ſervice, and returned to Paris, in order to be near at hand, to follow the proſecution of his cauſes.—He had to do indeed with a party much too powerful for him; being no longer upon good terms at court, he no longer found friends

friends there; he had flattered himſelf that the death of the Intendant, which happened at this time, would put an end to all the chicanery that had been practiſed again him; but this Intendant had left behind him a ſon, who notwithſtanding his being a gentleman of true and diſtinguiſhed merit, had inherited from his father an inveterate hatred towards the Marquis, being perſuaded that his deſign had been to diſhonour their family.—He has ſince had ſufficient reaſon to repent of the hatred he has borne him.—At the time when you came to Paris, Monſieur de ——, who had been in high favour and place at court, was diſgraced; the courtiers were all attention to the choice which the king ſhould make of the perſon that was to ſucceed him in his office. All the cabals and intriguing of thoſe who were pretenders to the place, were well known to this monarch. Monſieur de P—, who ſometimes went to make his court to his ſovereign, found him weary'd out with thoſe intrigues; and as he was well known by him, for a perſon

of

of merit, a title which always maintained its juſt rights with this great prince, he was determined to conſult Monſieur de P— concerning the choice he ought to make.—Monſieur de P—, after having taken notice of the talents and character of all thoſe who might pretend to this employment, mentioned Monſieur de E—. How! ſaid his majeſty, the ſon of the Intendant of Metz! What, do you ſpeak to me in favour of your enemy?——Yes, Sir, replied Monſieur de P—; he is active, zealous, of a try'd probity, and at an age to be capable of ſerving your majeſty for many years. The king, who is touched with every thing that has virtue for its motive, moved by thoſe ſentiments of generoſity, replied to him with that air of goodneſs that gained the hearts of all thoſe who had the honour to approach him, that he would conſider of what he had been ſaying to him; and in effect, Monſieur de E — was in a few days preſented to the place.--When he was paying his duty, and making his acknowledgments of gratitude to his

majeſty

majeſty for this favour, this prince informed him, that it was to Monſieur de P—— that he owed the obligation. Monſieur de E—, when he came out from the preſence, proceeded directly for Paris, where his firſt care was to go and return thanks to Monſieur de P—. He ſaid to him every thing that gratitude could inſpire on ſuch an occaſion; the Marquis anſwered with his natural generoſity; they embraced and vowed a conſtant friendſhip, of which the Marquis receives every day freſh marks from Monſieur de E—. He took care immediately to put an end to the affairs of the Marquis, who is now maſter of a noble fortune, and of a reputation equal to his deſert; theſe are the reaſons for my regard for him.—The virtue of mankind is more certainly approved by the manner of their behaviour with reſpect to their enemies, than by their conduct towards their friends. There is nothing extraordinary in doing good to thoſe whom we love, but it is virtue alone that can oblige us to do it to our enemies:---Nature herſelf ſeems

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to inſpire us with the principles of revenge; the firſt impulſe always hurries us on to it, if we liſten to its dictates; it is nothing but reflexion and wiſdom that can rectify in us thoſe violent and unjuſt emotions.——If what Madam de C— had been relating to me concerning the Marquis, augmented my eſteem for him, the reflection which ſhe had added to it, augmented my reſpect for herſelf.

The Marquis de P—— came very often to ſee Mademoiſelle de C—— receive her leſſons. Notwithſtanding the eſteem which I had entertained for him, this procedure very much diſpleaſed me. He ſtayed with us, when our maſters were gone, and always found means to make the converſation to turn upon the ſubject of love. You are more worthy to be beloved than any woman in the world, ſaid he, to Mademoiſelle de C---; but if there are men capable of knowing your merit, and of feeling for you all that paſſion that you ought to inſpire, there is not one of them that can be worthy of moving your heart in his

his favour; diſtruſt all our ſex, the man of the moſt honour in point of love is always dangerous to the ladies.--Fortune, that for a long time has perſecuted me, has never yet dared to make any attempt upon my reputation; I paſs in the eye of the public for one who has nothing to reproach himſelf with; yet, notwithſtanding this opinion, what reproaches have I not to make to myſelf, on the chapter of the fair ſex? what oaths, altho' made with the greateſt ſincerity, have I not broken?--Inconſtancy is our character, all objects ſtrike us; whatſoever love, whatſoever eſteem we may entertain for a lady, the moment that we are ſure of being beloved by her, ſhe preſently becomes the victim of our levity; nothing is capable of ſtopping us; our honour, which is not any ways concerned in our behaviour, with reſpect to women, leaves us to abandon ourſelves to all the diſorders of our hearts; our treacheries coſt us nothing; we are perjured and ungrateful, without imagining that probity is offended by it. Such, Mademoiſelle, is our portrait; judge

judge then how great a misfortune it muſt be, for a lady to entruſt herſelf to us. As for you, ſaid he, you never will experience it; whoſoever ſhall ſo far forget the reſpect that is your due, as to have the temerity to tell you, that he loves you, can never be worthy of any thing but your contempt; you deſerve to be adored, but adored in ſilence.

Mademoiſelle de C---- was highly pleaſed with the Marquiſs's diſcourſe. I permitted him ſtill to go on without the leaſt contradiction; but when he was gone out, ſuffer not your heart to be impoiſoned with ſuch prejudices, ſaid I to Mademoiſelle de C---. I agree, that there are many men, ſuch as the Marquis has been deſcribing them, but there are many women alſo, who reſemble us in the levity with which he accuſes all our ſex. Be aſſured, mademoiſelle, that the perſon who loves you, or rather who adores you, will never be capable of changing; your merit is an aſſured and certain warrant of it; I much rather chuſe to believe the Marquis than yourſelf, ſaid ſhe to me ſmiling.

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The indifference which I remarked in Mademoiſelle de C----, and the efforts which I made to hide my paſſion from her, threw me into a great fit of melancholy. Madam de C---- was going to ſet out for the country with her amiable daughter; ſhe was to ſtay there a month; but as for me, I was not ſo happy as to be of the party. Madam de C-- told me, that it would take me off too much from my employments; that I ſhould keep Monſieur de C---- company.---I am going, ſaid I to myſelf, to be a whole month without ſeeing her whom I ſo paſſionately love; it may be, that the freedom the country affords, may give an opportunity to ſome perſon to diſcover to her the impreſſion that ſhe makes on the hearts of all beholders; but for me, I am not permitted to ſay to her, even that I adore her, without offending thoſe ſentiments of gratitude which are due from me to the bounties of her mother. How wretched am I!

Madam de C---- obſerving my ſadneſs, told my brother to come and fetch me,

me, when he was going to any of the public ſhews; ſhe was apprehenſive leſt I ſhould fall ſick. I cannot imagine what is the matter with him, ſays ſhe, to my brother. He is in love, madam, replied he. Madam de C---- looked ſteadily at me; I coloured; may we believe this, returned ſhe, with a grave air. My brother, madam, replied I to her, is pleaſed to divert himſelf.---Take care of yourſelf, Chevalier, added ſhe, ſhe to whom you attach yourſelf will convince me what I ought to think of you: our firſt inclinations form our character; we are all born with vices and virtues;--ſhould you aim at pleaſing a woman of virtue, love will incite you to increaſe your good qualities, but if you attach yourſelf to one of a vicious diſpoſition, your vices will acquire the maſtery over you; the firſt impreſſions are the moſt dangerous, they are never to be worn out.----I aſſured her, that ſhe had nothing to fear, and that I ſhould never make any but ſuch a choice as might teſtify to her the impreſſion

preſſion which her counſels had made upon me.

Some days after, my brother came for me, to carry me to the opera; he there examined, according to his cuſtom, all the ladies. He made me take notice of one of them, and asked me how I liked her? She is very handſome, anſwered I. I know it well, returned he, with an air of paſſion;---ſhe has made me ſuffer ſufficiently, and the ingrate, at a time when I believed myſelf her favourite lover, abandoned me to pleaſe and gratify her ambition: ſhe only pretended to anſwer my paſſion, that ſhe might gain an opportunity of expoſing her charms to the notice of Monſeigneur, with whom I frequently was. The traitreſs has but too well ſucceeded in her deſign; I viſited her every day, and did not in the leaſt perceive that I was betrayed by her, till the public informed me of her treachery; her protection is ſought by all thoſe who want to obtain thoſe favours that are in the power of Monſeigneur; ſhe takes care to make them pay for the ſervices ſhe does them.

them. Such is the character of Madam ———. He then named me a name of very great quality.---Is it not a horrid thing, ſaid he to me, for a woman of this rank, thus to debaſe herſelf to ſuch low intrigue, and to regard nothing but lucre ?---I am afraid that you are in love with her ſtill, ſaid I to him, you ſpeak of her with too much vivacity. I in love with her! I hate her. If that be the caſe, anſwered I, let us ſay no more about her; and if her character be not reſpectable, let us at leaſt reſpect her ſex.—We came out from the houſe the laſt: he was determined to ſee this hated lady go along; he then brought me back to our houſe. When we arrived, we were informed that Madam and Mademoiſelle de C-- were gone to ſup in the city; my brother left me. I ſtaid to keep Monſieur de C-- company, who was all alone; when we were at ſupper, he told me, that he ſhould have company to dine with him the next day; and that his wife would ſet out the day following. I was gone to bed when Madam de C— returned. I ſaw her

not till the next day: ſhe asked me the news of the opera, whether there was much company? I was going to make anſwer, when a ſervant came to announce Madam de —— whom I knew in a moment to be the ſame whom my brother had talked ſo much of the evening before; I was amazed at the familiar air with which ſhe embraced Madam de C—, whom I knew to be exceeding delicate in the choice of the ladies whom ſhe viſited. She preſented me to the lady, who ſhewed me the greateſt politeneſs: ſhe asked if Monſieur de C— was in his cloſet? She was anſwered, that they were going to inform him of her arrival. No, I beg you would not, ſaid ſhe to Madam de C—, I have ſomething to acquaint him with I will go to him myſelf. When ſhe' was gone, I ſaid to Madam de C—, that this lady was the evening before at the opera, and that my brother had ſaid a great deal to me about her.—From what he has told you of her, I am perſuaded that you were ſupriſed to ſee her at my houſe, anſwered ſhe with a ſmile; but,

but, Chevalier, this fortune, whom all the world reveres, this ſtatue raiſed by our imagination, more vain than that of Pygmalion, it is very often requiſite that like him, we ſhould addreſs ourſelves to Love, to give it life and to render it propitious to us;—it is this lady who protects my husband with Monſieur.

Monſieur de C— came in a moment after with this lady; we went to dinner. Mademoiſelle de C— was highly dreſſed, and had an air of modeſty that was enchanting; the company gave her great praiſe, but the manner with which ſhe received thoſe praiſes, merited them all anew; during the repaſt ſhe ſaid the fineſt things in the world, full of propriety and ſenſe; when ſhe was applauded, ſhe ſought in the eyes of her mother to diſcover whether ſhe had merited it or not. Madame de C— well knowing the confidence which this amiable daughter repoſed in her, gave always ſome mark of her approbation; her maxim was, that we ought never in the company of young people to

to fail of praiſing whatever is good, and of blaming whatever is evil.

We had a great deal of company at dinner, and we ſat a long time at table. A ſervant came to inform us, that the dancing maſter waited for us;---I looked on Madam de C---, who gave us a ſign to go and take our leſſon. When it was finiſhed Mademoiſelle de C---- aſked me what I thought of Madam---whether I did not think her very lovely ?--I anſwered her, Yes. Her charms are the occaſion of unhappineſs to her, ſaid ſhe to me: I am perſuaded that ſhe does not merit the ill they ſay of her ; the world imagines that a man cannot have a regard for a woman, nor endeavour to do her ſervice, without there being ſome criminal correſpondence between them ; this is a convincing proof of the corruption of the age. You think, replied I, in a manner worthy of yourſelf. I believe what you tell me with reſpect to Madam de —; but, mademoiſelle, if all women reſembled you, let them be as beautiful as they would, they would not give room to the public

to attack their reputations. All the men adore theſe ſort of women, anſwered ſhe; and you yourſelf will, in the end, think juſt like the reſt. No, no, mademoiſelle, ſaid I to her with vivacity. What, ſaid ſhe, do you think to remain at Paris with your heart always free? you would be the only one. I ſhall think all my life, anſwered I, juſt as I do at this moment.----The impreſſion which I received from the converſation of two ladies, whom I did not ſee, can never be effaced. I was arrived near to Paris, and being overpowered by the heat, I attempted to repoſe myſelf; but repoſe was not made for me. I repeated to her, Sir, all that I had heard in the foreſt of Senars; I praiſed the lady who had ſpoken laſt. It was thoſe ſentiments, madam, ſaid I, which have affected me, and of which the remembrance never ceaſes to occupy my thought.— The ſound of the voice of this lady yet ſtrikes upon my ear; I fancy every moment that I hear it.— How happy ſhould I be, could I but tell her at her feet that I love her!—I ſhould die contented

tented were I permitted to diſcover my paſſion to her, but every thing oppoſes it.

Come, let us return to our company, anſwered Mademoiſelle de C—; it is a long time that we have been abſent. I led her to the door of the apartment, and then went to ſhut myſelf up in my chamber.

The counſels of my father returned now to my memory. See, ſaid I to myſelf, the fruit of the advice that he gives me in all his letters! I have been rendering myſelf unworthy of the bounties of Madam de C—, I have betrayed her confidence; he who is deficient in gratitude is not worthy of life;—I thought the remorſe that filled me was juſt, yet I am ſenſible even now, that it was exceedingly difficult for a perſon of my age, ſeeing daily a lady whom I adored, and often finding myſelf alone with her, not to deviate a little from the path to which ſtrict gratitude confined me.

The next day ſhe was to ſet out for the country. The grief in which I was plunged, to think, that I was going to

be a whole month without ſeeing her, had ſoftened me yet more: I found a bye-way of mentioning my paſſion; I neither recollected my father nor Madam de C—; is it not excuſable for one to forget one's ſelf a little in the preſence of the perſon whom we love?----I remained ſhut up in my chamber the reſt of the day, and did not repair but with trembling to the apartment of Madam de C——. I imagined to myſelf, that ſhe was informed of what had juſt happened to me, altho' ſhe was totally ignorant of it. I diſcovered in the eyes of Mademoiſelle de C--- all her uſual tranquillity; ſhe talked to me in her accuſtomed manner, which, inſtead of diminiſhing my embarraſſment, ſerved only to augment it.--I was ſenſible how wretched I was become;---I have failed in my duty, ſaid I to myſelf; I have committed a crime without reaping the leaſt benefit from it; the indifference which ſhe has for me, makes her imagine that I am in love with a being o my own fancy; either ſhe has never diſcovered that it is herſelf whom I adore,

adore, or otherwiſe, ſhe is perfectly careleſs and indifferent about it.—— Madam de C--- ſaw me ſorrowful ; it is only from my regard and friendſhip for you, ſaid ſhe to me, that I deprive you of the pleaſure of going with us into the country. It is your intereſt to make the beſt uſe of the year that you are to ſpend with us ; for when you ſhall be obliged to follow your regiment (my brother having preſented me with a lieutenancy) you will not have the opportunity of receiving your leſſons from ſuch excellent maſters as at Paris : you ſhall keep Monſieur de C--- company ; make your court well to him; I know that he loves you ; do not come to-morrow to bid us adieu, for I cannot bear to ſee you look ſo melancholy.

We had ſupped. I waited for Mademoiſelle de C--- to give her my hand to lead her to her apartment, as I very frequently did ; but without giving me any reaſon to imagine that ſhe avoided it, ſhe found means to deprive me of that pleaſure.

I went to bed, but not to ſleep, for this was impoſſible ; all that had paſſed

preſented itſelf continually to my thoughts, as if to keep me in torment. At ſix in the morning I heard the coach drive away. I flew to the window; with what rapidity did it not ſeem to me to depart! How well did I diſcover, in that moment, the value of a beloved object's preſence, even altho' we think not that we are beloved again by itt

When I was aſſured that Monſieur de C--- was riſen, I went into his cloſet. Here we are by ourſelves, Chevalier, ſaid he to me; you will be quite weary of our ſitting noſe to noſe over againſt each other, and will think it very dull. I anſwered him, that I had too great a reſpect for him, to be ever tired of his company. He ſhewed me abundance of friendſhip; he put confidence in me, relating to me all the ſteps he had taken to arrive at the fortune which he now enjoyed. I have but one only daughter, ſaid he to me; it is thought ſurpriſing that ſhe is not yet married; I leave the public at liberty to talk as they pleaſe, this gives me no embarraſſment; I am deſirous of her happineſs only, and will

will never beſtow her but upon a man of Madam de C—'s own chuſing; ſhe does not find many of them agreeable to her taſte; and the tenderneſs ſhe has for her daughter, renders this choice exceeding difficult.

Such were the converſations I held with Monſieur de C——; when I was not in his company, I repaired to the apartment of Madam de C---, to contemplate the picture of her amiable daughter:---her picture was there at full length, prodigiouſly reſembling her. I ſat myſelf down over againſt it, and paſſed there a part of the day with a ſatisfaction unknown to all but ſuch as are lovers.---I had already made myſelf a great proficient in the art of painting; I drew a copy in miniature of this picture, and compoſed of it a piece, in which I had drawn myſelf as finiſhing a portrait, which was that of Mademoiſelle de C---. I had beſides interſperſed in this piece a multitude of little loves, all occupied in ſerving me; ſome of them drew out feathers from their wings, with which they made pencils

for my uſe, others ſelected the colours, which they ground: there was one in particular who guided my hand; and round the portrait I had written theſe words; 'It is the performance of Love.' In effect, Sir, he is a very great maſter; the moſt excellent painter would not have diſdained to own the painting.

Madam de C---- returned from the country, and brought back with her all my joys; my eyes were inceſſantly employed in gazing on her charming daughter; ſhe ſeemed to me yet more beautiful than when ſhe left us. Madam de C--- aſked me if I had made good uſe of my maſter's leſſons during her abſence; As much, madam, replied I to her, as was in my power. Have you finiſhed that landſcape that you had begun? replied ſhe. I told her that I had finiſhed it, and that I had even made a great progreſs in a ſecond. I will go and ſee that, ſaid ſhe. The next day, being retired to my chamber, I had taken into my hands the painting in which I had drawn the picture of Mademoiſelle de C---. I examined it all over, to ſee if

any

any little touch was yet wanting in it to make it compleat ; and after having in effect given it ſome additional embelliſhment, I left myſelf at liberty to indulge in the ſweet pleaſure of gazing upon it, when a hand ſuddenly ſnatched it from me. I turned myſelf round, eagerly throwing myſelf on the perſon ; but, what was my aſtoniſhment, Sir? It was Madam de C--- herſelf ; this lady coming to ſee what I had done in my painting, during her abſence, had found me ſo loſt in my attention upon ſomething, that ſhe intended to divert herſelf by ſurprizing me. I threw myſelf at her feet; is it a crime ſaid I, to adore her ? No one is maſter of his paſſions. I had yet kept my hand upon the picture: ſhe took it from me ; what do I ſee, Chevalier ? ſaid ſhe to me, with a piercing look : is this the return which you make for the friendſhip I have entertained for you ? I was all this time at her knees, oppreſſed with the deepeſt confuſion and dread. Is my daughter acquainted with your ſentiments, demanded ſhe ? No, madam, replied I to her. I

have too great a ſenſe of your goodneſs. I would die ſooner than be wanting in my duty towards you.

This was, indeed, telling her a lie, but love juſtified the deed. Madam de C--- pitied the condition in which ſhe ſaw me. How have you been able, ſaid ſhe, to draw this picture, without the conſent of my daughter ?----I then reminded her, that there was a picture at large in her apartment, and told her, that I had employed myſelf in copying it, during the time of her abſence. Chevalier, ſaid ſhe, with a grave and thoughtful air, ſtrictly obſerve the rules I am going to lay down for you.----I forbid you ever to enter my daughter's apartment; your maſters ſhall give you your leſſons before me ; I will talk to Monſieur de C---, and from the anſwer I receive from him, I ſhall ſee what I may be able to do for you. With what rapture was I not penetrated in that moment ? I claſped the knees of Madam de C--- ; words were wanting to expreſs my gratitude and my tenderneſs ; the tears which fell from me gave her

her a more convincing proof; ſhe was moved by them, and I ſaw with tranſport her own eyes wet alſo: ſhe embraced me without ſpeaking one word; went out of my chamber, and carried my piece of painting along with her. I dared not preſume to ask her for it: Thus I was left to combat with fear and hope; I reflected on the conſtraint I was going to be laid under. The pleaſure of gazing on this adorable young lady was the only happineſs I enjoyed, ſaid I, and now I muſt no longer be indulged in that. I ſhall ſee her no more but in the preſence of her mother, who will watch every look; what will become of me?

I was oppreſſed with ſo great a melancholy, that at the end of fifteen days I was altered as much as if I had had a great fit of illneſs; the only conſolation that was left me, was to read in the eyes of Madam de C--- that ſhe pitied my condition; when I retired one night out of her apartment, ſhe embraced me. I am ſatisfied with you, chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me.---Her amiable

daughter lived with me according to her uſual way, which threw me into a deep deſpair; I accuſed her of cruelty, in not taking notice to how great a degree I was altered.

Some days after, Monſieur de C--- was obliged to go to Verſailles; Madam de C---, who was going to ſup in the city, that day, told me, as ſhe was getting into the coach, not to go to bed before her return, and to wait in my own chamber, till ſhe ſhould ſend thither for me; I have ſomething to ſay to you, ſaid ſhe. I remained under an inquietude that is not to be expreſſed; is it that ſhe no longer thinks me worthy of her bounties? ſaid I to myſelf. I waited for her return with racking impatience: never did time appear to me ſo tedious, yet, I thought it had too ſwiftly paſſed away; when I heard the coach return again, fear ſeized upon me; I fell into a violent trembling.

At the end of half an hour, one of Madam de C---'s women came for me: ſhe conducted me into the apartment, and then withdrew; a criminal juſt going

going to receive ſentence of death, is not more diſordered than I was at that moment. I advanced towards Madam de C—, who held out her hand to me, Fear not, chevalier, ſaid ſhe, to me, ſmiling, ſit yourſelf down; the manner in which you have behaved for theſe fifteen days paſt, and the friendſhip which I have for you, have encouraged me to talk this morning to Monſieur de C——. He anſwered me, that he left the fate of my daughter intirely in my own hands; that he knew you had ſenſe and merit, and believed you capable of making her happy;— You ſhall be my ſon, my dear chevalier, ſince I am now at liberty to follow my own inclinations.

I threw myſelf at the feet of Madam de C——; penetrated with the deepeſt gratitude and joy, I thanked her as much as my preſent tranſport would permit me to do.—When Monſieur de C— ſhall be come back from Verſailles, ſaid ſhe, he will ſpeak to the Marquis de P——, to deſire him to aſk for the grant of the regiment of ----- whoſe

colonel

colonel is juſt dead; he intends to make you a preſent of it.—My happineſs wanted nothing in that moment to complete it, but to know that I was beloved by her whom I adored.---Have you not obſerved, ſaid I to Madam de C---, the rigour with which ſhe treats me? She has not once deſigned to take notice of the ſorrow with which I have been overwhelmed ever ſince you diſcovered that I loved her. I ſhall not be happy, madam, if I owe her hand to nothing but her ſubmiſſion to your command. I take upon myſelf to inform you of her ſentiments, ſaid ſhe to me. I will command her to anſwer you frankly and ſincerely; but return to your chamber, my ſon; it is late, I am now going to bed.

What felicity did I not taſte, monſieur, in the idea of the happineſs which I was going to enjoy! I ſhall be permitted to tell her that I adore her, ſaid I to myſelf; all that I have ſuffered to conceal my paſſion from her, will prove my reſpect. I am going to read, in the eyes of this amiable lady, the decree

that

that muſt decide my fortune; how do I dread that moment!

I paſſed the whole night in reflections of this kind. At five in the morning, Felix came into my chamber-Riſe, Sir, ſaid he, with all ſpeed, Madam de C--- begs you to go down into her apartment.----What then has happened, ſaid I to him? I know not, Sir, anſwered he; a man has juſt brought a letter, which I fancy comes from Verſailles. I went down, I found Madam de C--- riſen, and ſeemingly loſt in thought, leaning upon a table, on which lay an open letter. The moment ſhe ſaw me, ſhe gave it to me, without ſpeaking one word; I obſerved in her a melancholy, though firm and reſolute air, which made me tremble. In this letter I read thoſe words.

The LETTER.

" Our fears, madam, with reſpect
" to the affairs in which Monſieur de
" C— engaged, contrary to our ad-
" vice, with that raſcal de O---, were
" true

" true forbodings of what has juſt now
" happened.—He is fled, and has car-
" ried off with him the fortunes of a
" number of families. His papers are all
" ſeized on; among which are diſco-
" vered the engagements he had en-
" tered into with Monſieur de C——.
" The creditors of De O—— have
" gotten theſe into their hands, and
" are preparing to make a vigorous
" purſuit after Monſieur de C----. As
" I was informed that they were going
" to arreſt him, I have juſt now
" made him depart for one of my
" eſtates, where I will take care to
" give him proper information of
" every thing that ſhall happen. Save
" whatever effects are in your power;
" for this day they are to come and
" clap the ſeal upon every thing in
" your houſe:—Be aſſured, madam,
" that I will employ every thing in my
" power to do you ſervice.—This is
" an unfortunate affair; the king,
" who is acquainted with it, deſires,
" that the utmoſt rigour and ſeverity
" ſhould be made uſe of on this oc-
" caſion.

" caſion. Loſe not a moment to " ſave all you can!"

The letter was ſigned by the lady who protected Monſieur deC ——. A clap of thunder would have been leſs terrible to me, than the condition to which I ſaw Madam de C---- reduced. What can be done, madam, ſaid I to her? I have nothing but my life to offer you; diſpoſe of it as you pleaſe. Ah! my dear daughter, ſaid ſhe, letting fall ſome tears, how greatly do you deſerve to be happy!---What dreadful news have I to tell you! A moment after, ſhe reſumed her ſpeech; it is proper, Chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me, for you to carry this little caſket to the houſe of the Marquis de P—, it is all that I have been able to preſerve.—Beg him, from me, to go directly to Verſailles, and to learn there, what we ought to hope for, or to fear.—You will afterwards go and receive two payments of ten thouſand crowns each, which ought to have been made yeſterday; theſe

theſe too you will carry to the Marquis.

I departed in a moment; I made the ſervants awaken Monſieur de P---. I gave him the letter which Madam de C--- had juſt received. The moment he had finiſhed the reading of it, he ordered horſes to be put to his poſt chaiſe. I told him every thing with which I had been charged by Madam de C---. Aſſure her, returned he, that I go this inſtant, and that I will be back again the moment that I ſhall have been informed of all the affair.---O heavens! ſaid he, with a ſigh, what a dreadful blow for her daughter!---I left him to go and receive the money which ſhe had ſpoken to me about; I was obliged to wait near three hours, not being willing to run the hazard of Monſieur de C---'s misfortune being known, for fear leſt they ſhould then have refuſed payment. When I had received this ſum, I carried it to the Marquis, and returned to give an account of my

ſucceſs

ſucceſs to Madam de C---; I found her with her amiable daughter at her knees:—Think not for me, Madam, ſaid ſhe to her, kiſſing her hands, and bathing them with her tears; I am ſenſible to nothing but the grief with which I ſee you pierced:—Fortune has for a time been favourable to us, and now ſhe abandons us.—We muſt take ſome reſolution: let us retire to ſome country place; I will endeavour by my reſpect, and by my tenderneſs, to ſoften and ſooth your ſorrows in that retirement; do not ſuffer yourſelf, madam, to ſink under the load; you will make me die with grief.---Ah my dear daughter, replied Madam de C—— to her, catching her in her arms, how well do you deſerve to be happy! and then looking upon me, ſhe aſked me, have you ſpoken to the Marquis? it was long before I made her any anſwer. The preſence of Mademoiſelle de C—; the hopes with which I had been flattered for ſome hours; the ſorrow with which I ſaw the perſon oppreſſed, whom I adored,

quite

quite overwhelmed me. At length I took upon me to tell Madam de C— the ſucceſs of my commiſſion. I was yet ſpeaking, when I heard a poſt-chaiſe enter the court; it was that of the Marquis de P---; he entered the room with a very ſorrowful air.--- What am I to hope for, ſaid Madam de C--- to him? Very little, madam, anſwered the Marquis. I have been with Monſieur de E---, who told me, that knowing Monſieur de C--- was my friend, the moment he had learned what had happened to him, he had put himſelf in motion to do him whatever ſervice might be in his power; but that his zeal had been of no manuer of ſervice: I beged him always to continue it. I have made him take notice, that when it ſhall once be known that he will be his protector, it will ſilence in ſome meaſure the clamour of his enemies.

After this, the Marquis talked ſoftly to Madam de C---, who gave me a ſign to retire out of the room. I withdrew to my apartment, I walked there, back-

backwards and forwards at a great rate, the doors of my chamber ſtanding open the whole time. After half an hour thus ſpent, I ſaw Mademoiſelle de C--- go into her own apartment; I followed her, ſhe was all diſſolved in tears, thoſe tears were redoubled at the ſight of me; leave me, ſaid ſhe alone.---In what condition do I ſee you, Mademoiſelle, anſwered I? Has the Marquis been informing you of any new misfortunes?----My father's affairs, replied ſhe to me, are intirely deſperate:----ask me nothing more, Chevalier; withdraw from hence, you muſt no longer intereſt yourſelf in any thing concerning me, you would be too unhappy.

At this moment a ſervant came in, who told me, that Madam de C--- inquired for me. I went to her, ſhe was all alone.---What have I to tell you, my dear Chevalier? ſaid ſhe, embracing me? What pain are not thoſe hopes going to coſt you, with which I myſelf have flattered you;---I have befriended and ſerved your paſſion; and yet,

yet, it muſt be renounced.---The Marquis de P--- has thought to conſole me, by asking my daughter of me in marriage; in the ſituation wherein ſhe, and all of us are at this time, I have not been capable of refuſing his offer:---What, in that moment, was my ſituation?---I fell at the feet of Madam de C----, without ſenſe, or life. It was with the greateſt difficulty in the world, that they recalled me to myſelf.----Recollect all your virtue, my dear Chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me; by that gratitude which you owe to the tender friendſhip I have for you, I conjure you to moderate your grief;---you augment my diſtreſs:---continue to behave with equal diſcretion now, as you did at the time before I talked to you on the ſubject.----Ah! madam, what is it that you require of me? urged I to her. Then, I had never been flattered with any ſhare of hope; I have ſince been permitted to hope for every thing, and now---I could proceed no farther, my ſpeech itſelf failed me.

See here, an opportunity, ſaid Madam de C--- to me, of ſhewing us a convincing proof of your courage, of your virtue, and even of the perfection of your paſſion.---You owe not your misfortune to any thing but fate itſelf; my daughter is here without a ſhilling to ſupport her; the Marquis is wealthy; this alliance will augment the number of Monſieur de C---'s protectors.---The generoſity of your ſentiments will make you find a ſweetneſs in ſacrificing your paſſion to the welfare of the family.----Ah! madam, replied I, do you reflect fully on what it is that you require of me? Do you believe that it is poſſible for me to do ſo? Another is going to poſſeſs all that I adore; what is to become of me? I have nothing but death to wiſh for; and I feel, in effect, an earneſt deſire on my mind, to give it with my own hands.

The trouble of my ſoul made ſuch an alteration on my countenance, as gave Madam de C— room to dread ſome fatal accident; ſhe advanced to em-

embrace me, as if ſhe would diminiſh by her tenderneſs, the exceſs of my deſpair. She ſaid to me the moſt moving things in the world; her wiſdom, and her friendſhip for me, even brought me a little to myſelf, and determined me to do what ſhe demanded of me; it was to ſet out for an eſtate which ſhe had near Avignon: ſhe was under a neceſſity of ſending ſome perſon in truſt to make the farmers pay their rents, and to receive a conſiderable ſum for timber that had been ſold.—-Diligence was requiſite in order to get before the creditors, who would certainly very ſoon make a ſeizure upon the eſtate; this ſerved for the prerext for my ſpeedy removal.—Madam de C--- ordered me to depart, without taking any leave of her daughter; ſpare her, ſaid ſhe to me, the grief of ſeeing how great your own is. The attention with which I liſtened to theſe laſt words of Madam de C---, made her perceive that ſhe had ſaid too much upon the ſubject; it was neceſſary that ſhe ſhould not in the leaſt flatter my paſſion.

paſſion.----She was a moment without ſpeaking a word; then looking upon me with her eyes full of tears, Go, ſaid ſhe, claſping me in her arms, go and get every thing ready for your departure.

I returned into my chamber all oppreſſed with grief; I recalled to my mind all that the Marquis de P—— had ſaid to Mademoiſelle de C—— on the ſubject above. The paſſion which he entertained for her, ſaid I to myſelf, dictated to him all theſe diſcourſes.---- He did not wiſh to have her cold and inſenſible, but becauſe he thought himſelf no longer at an age to pleaſe her. That he had given a good deſcription of himſelf, when he told her, that ſhe ought never to put any confidence in his own ſex.---Who would have believed, to hear him, that it was love that made him eloquent?---What happineſs is he gone to enjoy! Alas, how wretched am I!

I remained locked up for a whole hour, abandoned to the moſt cruel reflexions in the world. Fælix came to

tell me that Madam de C--- had commanded him to prepare every thing in order for our departure in a moment, and that ſhe waited for me in her own apartment. Thither did I go; I found her in company with the Marquis, who gave me high commendations, for having offered with ſo much zeal to undertake the affairs of Madam de C---. He informed me of every thing that it was proper I ſhould do. My poſt chaiſe is here, added he, you ſhall make uſe of it; they are going to put to the horſes, for there is not a moment's time to be loſt.----Mademoiſelle de C —, continued he, does ſhe know that you are juſt going? No, Sir, replied I. Come then with me to her apartment, ſaid ſhe; I would have her give you thanks herſelf for your zeal. He held out his hand with an air of friendſhip, and led me with him.---- When Mademoiſelle de C—— ſaw us, ſhe bluſhed---The Marquis informed her, with great commendations of my behaviour, of the intention of my journey; and hearing the horſes, he went

out to ſee if every thing was in order. Mademoiſelle de C—— being left alone with me, attempted to retire. She opened her cloſet door, I threw myſelf at her feet. Ah, mademoiſelle, ſaid I to her, you rob me of the laſt, the only pleaſure that is left me? I ſee you now perhaps for the laſt time; refuſe me not the ſatisfaction of ſwearing to you, that to my laſt breath--I heard myſelf called, and at the ſame moment Mademoiſelle de C—— retired into her cloſet; I turned my head, and perceived Madam de C—, who having obſerved the marquis alone in the court; and dreading, leſt I ſhould not ſufficiently conſtrain myſelf in the preſence of her daughter, had come to prevent me from ſpeaking to her. Follow me, Chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me, when I was in her apartment; you were at the feet of my daughter, ſaid ſhe, after all that I have recommended to you! Ah, madam, replied I, it is the laſt fault that I ſhall be guilty of. Death more kind to me than fortune, will not refuſe me his aſſiſtance.

I will die worthy of your eſteem. Far diſtant from hence, for ever, I will not trouble with my paſſion, the felicity which the marquis is going to enjoy. He entered as I mentioned his name;---you may now ſet out, Chevalier, ſaid he, every thing is in readineſs. Madam de C--- embraced me, bidding me adieu, the marquis did the ſame; he had a real friendſhip for me.

I got up into the poſt chaiſe, and as ſoon as I was arrived at my journey's end, I executed with ſucceſs all the affairs with which I was charged. I wrote frequently to Madam de C----: her letters were the only conſolation I had left; although that lady, who well knew my paſſion, never mentioned one word upon any occaſion of her, who was the ſubject of it.

It was a whole month ſince I had arrived there: the eſtate was ſeized on; it was proper that I ſhould leave it. The grief with which I was poſſeſſed, gave me a reliſh for retirement, where I found myſelf at liberty to reſign myſelf

ſelf up to my reflexions upon all the misfortunes that had happened to me. I acquainted Madam de C--- with the concern it gave me, to leave this eſtate. She returned me for anſwer, that I might remain there as long as I pleaſed. That Monſieur de G---'s affairs were all determined; and that it had coſt him his fortune; that the Marquis de P--- had purchaſed a part of his eſtates, among which was that of L---. If you would regard my counſel, added ſhe, at the end of her letter, you will repair to your regiment. In the condition you are, it is abſolutely neceſſary for you to look out for ſome diverſion. When a perſon is in love, and is left alone, he is too much taken up with contemplating the object of his paſſion. And you are ſenſible, my dear Chevalier, that it is neceſſary for your own repoſe, that you ſhould endeavour to forget all that has paſſed; and to raiſe your reſolution above thoſe misfortunes that are impoſſible to be remedied- --. She added, that I was at liberty to ſtay yet a month longer upon this eſtate;

but ſhe inſiſted on it, that after that time it was proper for me to go and join my regiment. It was in quarters in Brittany; my brother was to ſpend the winter there with it.

Near to the caſtle in which I took up my reſidence, there was a very large foreſt, whither, under the pretext of hunting, I went to ſpend a part of the day; my imagination totally occupied with the felicity which the Marquis de P--- was going to enjoy. There I reſigned myſelf up intirely, and gave a looſe to ſorrow and deſpair. I met every day with a man, dreſſed in the plaineſt manner, who having ſeated himſelf at the foot of a tree, employed himſelf in reading. Curioſity obliged me to accoſt him; he appeared to me to be between forty and fifty years of age; a pleaſing, noble, and tranquil countenance inſpired me with an affection for him: he received me with that natural politeneſs that ariſes from a generous mind.---After the uſual compliment and diſcourſe of perſons who meet without any knowledge

ledge of each other, he asked me my name. I told it him, and ſhewed an equal deſire to be informed of his; he anſwered me, thathe was called the Count de L——; that his caſtle had a gate upon the foreſt. I recollected at this name, that I had heard him ſpoken of by Madam de C——, as a man who had fled from all ſociety; ſpending his days in reading only. Yet notwithſtanding the idea I had entertained of him, from his diſcourſe, I obſerved in him ſo agreeable a manner of expreſſing himſelf, that I formed the deſign of contracting an intimacy with him. I asked him leave to go and viſit him at his houſe; he told me that I ſhould therein do him an honour.

The next day, in the morning, I repaired to his caſtle: my forwardneſs ſeemed to give him pleaſure; we entered into converſation. He asked me on what occaſion I reſided in that country. I anſwered him, like a man who has no pleaſure but in retirement, who ſeeks for a retreat, and wiſhes for

nothing in the world, but for the power of finiſhing his days in ſolitude.--That I had had the misfortune to have been in love, and perhaps to have been beloved; that I was intirely occupied by a paſſion, though deprived of all poſſibility of hope; and that I was perfectly ſenſible I never ſhould be able to extinguiſh it. Compelled to the ſad neceſſity of flying all my days from the dear preſence of the beloved object; that ſolitude alone could now boaſt of any charms for me.

The diſpoſitions of my heart made me ſpeak with ſuch vivacity, as made the Count ſmile, though with an air of ſorrow. He told me that I was very young to be ſuch an admirer of ſolitude; that to retire from the world, was a reſolution full of wiſdom; but that he feared, I ſhould not be able to keep it. He asked me, how I employed myſelf? I anſwered, that I was by no means in a condition to employ myſelf at all.—He propoſed to me, to come and viſit him every morning; this, ſaid he, will divert your melancholy

láncholy; for I am aſſured that you are much given to it; your manner of thinking at your age convinces me of it. The inclination that I found I had for the Count, made me accept of his offer, and I was delighted with his penetration; he kept me to dine with him. Our converſation turned upon women; I imagined, from the ſingularity of the life he led, that he was going to rail at the ſex; but hardly did he mention it. He only asked me news of Madam de C——; and whether it was true that ſhe had a daughter as lovely as Fame had reported her to be.---I gave him a picture of her; it was my heart itſelf that drew the likeneſs. Judge, Sir, if I did her juſtice. I related to him the misfortunes that had happened to her family; her marriage with the old Marquis de P—. I gave way to my tranſport ſo far, that my eyes were brimful of tears: but feeling that I betrayed myſelf, I bluſhed as I turned my eyes upon the Count, whoſe looks encouraged me again.

He held out his hand with an engaging goodneſs; how much am I concerned for you, my dear Chevalier, ſaid he to me! You have reſigned yourſelf up to love; what afflictions do I not foreſee attending you! I found myſelf comforted by this diſcourſe, and I confeſſed to him, that I loved Mademoiſelle de C---. I gave him a recital of all that had happened to me; the hope with which I had been flattered by Madam de C--; my miſery, which aroſe from nothing but the overthrow of their fortune.—I exaggerated to him, with tranſport, the felicity that I ſhould have enjoyed, could I have arrived at the poſſeſſion of Mademoiſelle de C---. Your youth tranſports you, my dear Chevalier, anſwered he; nothing is ſo dangerous as love, for perſons who have a delicate way of thinking; the more refined our ſentiments are, the more miſerable we are. The moſt happy perſon is oftentimes nothing more than a ſource of ſorrows that end not but with our life.

Aſtoniſhed at the vivacity with which the Count addreſſed himſelf to me, I replied again, that if I had been able to arrive at the happineſs with which I had been flattered, I ſhould never have felt any more ſorrows.—Ah, my dear Chevalier, what is it that you ſay, returned he; do you think what it is, to ſee a beloved object dying before one? At theſe words, the tears that flowed from his eyes interrupted his ſpeech; without knowing the occaſion of this emotion, I wept in company with him. I had talked of my paſſion, and my ſoul was all ſoftened for him; he was for a long ſpace abandoned to his grief. I gazed upon this man, who with an appearance of tranquillity, which ſo well denotes wiſdom, had yet a mind ſo full of affliction and diſtreſs. I firſt broke ſilence, and propoſed to him to take a walk in his gardens.—He conducted me thither; we talked there upon indifferent ſubjects.—He ſtill wore an air of melancholy that pierced my very heart.

Some few days after I came to make him a viſit, I found him in his cloſet where he ſtudied; from this cloſet, we paſſed into another, which I found delightful. There was a terraſs that looked out upon a little wood; this cloſet was painted on all ſides: I remarked in it the picture of the Count; turning myſelf towards him, that I might examine the likeneſs of it, I obſerved him occupied in gazing on the picture of a woman dreſſed in the habit of a veſtal Virgin. This made me regard it with attention.---The picture was at length: the perſon whom it repreſented, appeared to be very young; ſhe was tall, her ſhape delicate, her hair very dark; ſhe was not a regular beauty, but had one of theſe faces that it is impoſſible to behold without feeling ſome emotion; ſhe had a languiſhing air, like a perſon labouring under illneſs.

The converſation which I had held with the Count, and the manner with which he gazed upon the portrait, gave me ſome ſuſpicion of the truth: being

being deſirous however of drawing him out of his meditation, and deſigning to engage him to relate to me his adventures, in the full perſuaſion that this would alleviate his diſtreſs; and that this confidence would augment the affection which I already perceived in him towards me. I asked him for whom that portrait was drawn; he gazed upon me, but his heart was too much oppreſſed with grief for him to be able to anſwer me.----I embraced him; I begged him to put confidence in me; I told him, that although young, one might have a ſolid way of thinking; and that I would give him a convincing proof of it----I believe it, replied he, ſighing; and I am now going to give you a teſtimony of it. Let us go to the wood. I will tell you all my adventures; you are born with a tender diſpoſition, and the concern which you will take in my diſtreſſes will comfort me under the burthen of them.---Profit, my dear Chevalier, by what I am going to relate to you, and fly from love. We arrived at the wood, and finding that we were

were in a convenient place, the count began his diſcourſe in this manner.

I am the ſon of the Count de La--, who being diſguſted by the ill uſage he fancied he had received from the court, retired to live upon his eſtate; but before he took his journey thither, he proceeded to Rouen, to pay a viſit to the Marquis de Go---, with whom he had formerly carried on his ſtudies. He there fell in love with one of the Marchioneſs's relations; he asked her in marriage, and obtained the conſent of her friends with great facility. The young ladies of that country are by no means great fortunes; my father was an extraordinary good match for her. I was the firſt fruits of their marriage; I had afterwards a ſiſter, and we two were the only children they ever had.

My father, who had an extreme tenderneſs for me, would not ſend me to ſtudy at Paris. I was placed at Avignon; I came home to paſs three days in every month with him; it was but two ſhort leagues from the caſtle where he reſided. He ſtudied to diſcover my character, ſeeing that I had a paſſion

a paſſion for ſtudy; and the diſguſts which he had received at the court, having rendered him a great miſanthropiſt; (for miſanthropy, my dear Chevalier, never proceeds but from injured ſentiment.) He made me follow my ſtudies with infinite application. His deſign was, that I ſhould travel for ſome years; and then, that I ſhould marry, in order to conſtrain me to remain in the province, and not to hazard the chance of being expoſed to the affronts that he himſelf had received. Having finiſhed the courſe of my ſtudies, at the age of nineteen years, he ſent me to Italy, where I remained five years; obſerving with attention, and like a connoiſſeur, all the beauties of that country. I had a governor, who was a gentleman of an uncommon merit. My father ſent orders to me to return, having a deſire to diſpoſe of an eſtate, which he choſe not to do without my knowledge. I obeyed him; he made me give him a detail of every thing that had happened to me in the courſe of my travels, and the obſervations that I had made; he ſeemed to

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me to be ſatisfied with every thing I ſaid to him.

Two months after my return, the ſons of the duke de ———, came to pay a viſit to my father; they were going to Venice, to the fair of the Aſcenſion. So long as I had reſided in Italy, I had never been able to find an opportunity of going to ſee this fair. I asked leave of my father to accompany thoſe young noblemen: he gave me his permiſſion, but with ſome reluctance. We ſet out the next morning; we had determined to remain two days at Turin. On my arrival there, I found a letter from my mother, which informed me that my father had juſt been attacked with an apoplectick fit, and that upon the receipt of her letter, I ſhould return poſt. Theſe few words made me tremble for the event. I ſet out directly; but all my diligence could not procure me the ſatisfaction of once more ſeeing my father, he had been buried the evening before my arrival. My mother was in the deepeſt affliction; ſhe employed me ſeveral months in putting our affairs in order. She

then

then ſent me to Rouen, to bring away from thence my ſiſter, who was in a convent; the abbeſs of which was ſiſter to my mother.

I departed for Rouen. As ſoon as I arrived there, I went to the convent where my ſiſter reſided; and asked for her, without declaring who it was that wanted her, that I might ſee whether natural affection was capable of diſcovering to her who it was. I was directed to go into the parlour. I found there a ſervant in livery, who waited for one of the penſioners. A moment after, I ſaw her come in. I will not draw you any picture of her, my dear Chevalier, you have already ſeen it. I felt an emotion in myſelf upon looking at her; the agitation I was in made me imagine that it was my ſiſter herſelf. I was undeceived by ſeeing the young fellow who waited in the parlour deliver her a letter. She read it, and bid him aſſure her father from her, that ſhe took part in the joy he had juſt received.---That ſhe begged him to ſend to fetch her, that ſhe might make

make her compliments on the occaſion to her mother, and to aſſure them both of her duty. They opening the door to go out, I ſaw a young perſon whom ſhe embraced, and to whom ſhe gave the letter that ſhe had juſt received; this young perſon read it, and returned it to her again, with a very ſorrowful air.---Is it you, Sir, ſaid ſhe to me, who ask for Mademoiſelle de La---? Yes, mademoiſelle, replied I to her. I ſoon diſcovered that this was my ſiſter. The perfect reſemblance that ſhe bore to my father, affected me in the ſame manner as the mourning dreſs, and the air of trouble that I wore, diſcovered me to her.-----We contracted great friendſhip for each other. My ſiſter had a great ſhare of wit, and ſpoke with judgment; having given her an account of every thing that had happened, I told her that I was come to fetch her, to keep my mother company. I could not think of taking my leave of her, without asking her who the young lady was that retired from the parlour as ſhe came in. It is

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Mademoiſelle de Go---, replied ſhe, my companion, and my beſt friend. I think, ſaid I, that ſhe has a charming face.---Ah! my dear brother, returned ſhe, if you were but acquainted with her, you would adore her: ſhe is the moſt amiable girl in the world, of an excellent character. A misfortune has juſt now befallen her, which ſhe ſupports with a reſolution that enchants me. I demanded of her what was the misfortune ſhe was ſpeaking of: I told her, that I had directions to pay a viſit to the Marquis de Go----. We are related to him, and you would give me pleaſure, added I, if you would inform me of what it is that concerns her, before I go to the Marquiſs's houſe.---Mademoiſelle de Go- - anſwered my ſiſter, is the daughter of a former marriage; her mother was hurt by a fall in hunting, and died of the conſequences, juſt as ſhe was delivered of a boy who lived but two hours.--- Monſieur de Go-- remained a widower, having no other child but the young lady whom you have juſt ſeen, who

at that time was about ſix years of age. The deſire of having a ſon inſpired him with an inclination for a ſecond wife. He eſpouſed a very young perſon, and lived with her ten years without having any child by her. A match was now talked of between Mademoiſelle de Go-----, and her couſin; who was to inherit the noble and vaſt eſtates of the family, when lo! Madam de Go--- declared her pregnancy; ſhe was yeſterday delivered of a ſon: this is the ſubject of the letter which Mademoiſelle de Go---- has juſt now received. During the time of her mother-in-law's pregnancy, ſhe has received a thouſand inſults and affronts from her. This lady, who governs the temper of her huſband juſt as ſhe pleaſes, and who by no means loves her daughter-in-law, has given him to underſtand, that if ſhe ſhould have a ſon, it would be proper for him to engage Mademoiſelle de Go--- to take the veil:----that it would be by no means to their credit, if, after having talked of marrying her to her couſin, they

they ſhould beſtow her on a perſon of inferior rank.—My friend, who is informed of every thing that paſſes at her father's, by a woman who once attended on her mother, has received all this news with a charming ſweetneſs of temper. I have never heard her drop a ſingle word with reſpect to her mother-in-law, that could denote the leaſt reſentment.---I am aſtoniſhed, replied I, that Madam de Go--- ſhould not be delighted with ſuch a temper as that of her daughter-in-law. When you ſhall be acquainted with them both, anſwered my ſiſter, you will no longer be ſurprized at it.—Madam de Go--- was very young when ſhe was firſt married; and, in order to conſole herſelf for having eſpouſed a man in years, ſhe has given a looſe to her paſſion for all kind of pleaſures; ſhe is what is called a very pretty woman, but of an imperious temper, which is bnt augmented by the condeſcenſion and complaiſanee which her huſband always ſhews her.—The hatred which ſhe entertains againſt her daughter-in-

law,

law, proceeds from this circumſtance, that ſhe being of a very different character, the praiſes that are given to Mademoiſelle de Go--- appear to her to be ſatires pointed againſt her.-----I told my ſiſter, that I would go the next day to pay my reſpects to the Marquis de Go---; and that I would come and give her an account of my viſit.—I left her, with an aſſuranee that I was exceedingly afflicted with the fate of Mademoiſelle de Go—.

The next day I repaired to the houſe of the Marquis de Go---. I found joy painted on the face of every individual in the family. I enquired for the Marquis: a ſervant gave him notice of me; he received me with much politeneſs; he was no ſtranger to the name, and had often heard talk of my father; hardly did he give himſelf time, however, to aſk after him, when all at once he informed me, that he had juſt before had a ſon born; that his wife was a charming woman, and that he would introduce me to her. He then inquired for whom I was in mourning.

mourning. I anſwered, for my father; and that I was come to bring away my ſiſter, who was in the abbey of N---. I have a daughter, a penſioner in the abbey, ſaid he to me, and am to make her a viſit to-morrow.---I ſhall not forget to aſſure mademoiſelle your ſiſter of my reſpects.---If you have thoughts of going there too, added he, come and take a dinner with me, and we will go together. I accepted with abundance of pleaſure the propoſal he made me. Upon leaving the marquis's houſe, I repaired to the abbey; I gave my ſiſter an account of the converſation I had with the marquis. He has appeared to me, ſaid I to her, in the light of a very good and worthy man; but I am inclined to fancy, that his wife finds no great difficulty in governing him. I then aſked news of Mademoiſelle de Go— ; and whether the command ſhe preſerved over her paſſions had done no hurt to her health. No, anſwered my ſiſter, ſhe is perfectly tranquil; ſhe has indeed abundance of good ſenſe, and by this advantage

vantage ſhe ſupports afflictions better than any other perſon.--I then told my ſiſter, that I hoped the next day to have the honour of ſeeing Mademoiſelle de Go---, in company with monſieur her father, and then withdrew.

The following day I repaired to the marquis's houſe; as we were going to ſit down to table, a ſervant announced the preſident of Sa---. I am going, Chevalier, to give you a deſcription of him. He was a man of about thirty years of age, handſome, well made, but of a haughty carriage; he had wit, ſaid a great many good things, and affected yet much more to ſet himſelf up for a fine ſpeaker. The marquis received him like a man with whom he lived in the moſt intimate familiarity. The preſident inquired after the health of Madam de Go---, declared that he had deſigned to have made her a viſit in her own apartment, but that ſhe happened to be aſleep. The marquis anſwered me, that his lady was as well as could be expected; we went to dinner. The preſident inquired of the

the marquis whether he ſhould ſpend the day at home. The marquis replied, that he promiſed himſelf the pleaſure of going to the abbey with me, to pay a viſit to my ſiſter, and Mademoiſelle de Go---. I have promiſed, monſieur, added he, and turning towards me, to make him acquainted with my daughter. At hearing this name, the preſident began the praiſes of Mademoiſelle de Go---. He talked of her the whole dinner-time with ſo much emphaſis, that he quite provoked me; there was no end of his ſpeeches. The time appointed for our going to the abbey ſeemed to me to approach with uncommon ſlowneſs. At length the marquis aroſe from table, and ordered horſes to be put to the coach. He then ſent to his lady's apartment, to know whether ſhe was awake or not; and having learned that ſhe was ſtill aſleep, he made the preſident an offer of carrying him to the abbey; and the propoſal being accepted with joy, we got into the coach. On our arrival, we aſked for Mademoiſelle de Go---

and my ſiſter; we went into the parlour, where they came to us a moment after. The marquis behaved to my ſiſter with the higheſt politeneſs; and told her, that he hoped before ſhe quitted the place, that ſhe would do him the honour to ſpend a few days at his houſe. He then introduced me to his daughter; told her my name, and honoured the family with his panegyrick.—The preſident interrupted us, to make his compliments. I had thought him a great talker; but, how agreeably did he relieve me at that moment! I found myſelf, my dear Chevalier, in a confuſion and an embarraſſment that aſtoniſhed me. I could hardly return an anſwer to the compliments which Mademoiſelle de Go---- made me. We took ſeats: the marquis related to his daughter the joy with which he was tranſported at the birth of a ſon; he then entertained her with an account of the rejoicings that he intended to make when his lady ſhould be in a condition to ſee company; and promiſed her to come

and

and fetch her at the time. Monſieur de Go——, quite tired out my patience. I beheld the old gentleman perfectly intoxicated with his joy, and never once reflecting on the chagrin that his diſcourſe muſt neceſſarily occaſion to his daughter.—That calm and tranquil air with which Mademoiſelle de Go—— made anſwer to his tranſports, affected me extremely: I admired the power of reaſon and good ſenſe in this amiable young lady. I returned from this viſit with a concern which I am unable to expreſs. You, my dear Chevalier, are in love yourſelf; it is for you to imagine it. At taking leave of Mademoiſelle de Go—, I deſired to have permiſſion to come ſometimes to aſſure her of my reſpect. The marquis anſwered me, and ſaid, that whenever I ſhould come to make a viſit to my ſiſter, I ſhould give him a great deal of pleaſure by viſiting his daughter at the ſame time. When I thanked him for this priviledge, I looked upon Mademoiſelle de Go——, and fancied that I ſaw in her eyes a confirmation

of the permiſſion which her father gave me.---She looked upon me in ſuch a manner, as made me imagine that my ſiſter had talked of me to her, and of the intereſt, which, without knowing her, I had taken in the misfortune that had lately happened to her.—I bid adieu to my ſiſter; I had not indeed found time to ſay one ſingle word to her before; the preſident had kept her in converſation the whole time; and as for myſelf I had been ſo much taken up in admiring Mademoiſelle de Go—, that I had been attentive to nothing but her.—I returned home with my head full of all that I had heard ſaid by this amiable young lady. I meditated on the happineſs which that man muſt enjoy, who ſhould be ſo happy as to acquire her affection. The next day in the morning, I returned to the abbey, and queſtioned my ſiſter to diſcover if her lovely companion had not talked to her about me: Having ſent for her down, and wiſhed her a good day, I enquired after the health of Mademoiſelle de Go——

My

My ſiſter looked hard upon me, laughing, and ſaid, that her friend was very well; but that if I had any intention to ask for her, I was come a little too early: obſerving that I bluſhed at theſe words, ſhe put her hand through the gates, and ſaid to me, Acknowledge, my dear brother, that you think her charming!---You make me no anſwer,—do not be afraid of any thing, continued ſhe; from the firſt moment that you ſpoke to me concerning my companion, I had a ſuſpicion of what has happened.---Do not conceal your ſentiments from me. I have ſome deſigns in my head for your ſervice; and I will do every thing in my power to render them ſucceſsful; but place your confidence in me.---She found no great difficulty to bring me to ſpeak. She flattered my paſſion; I acknowledged to her the impreſſion that Mademoiſelle de Go--- had made upon me; that ſince I had ſeen her, I no longer knew myſelf. That appeared here yeſterday very evidently, anſwered my ſiſter, when you held your

tongue ſo long, till I was quite provoked at you.---I had taken great pains to cry you up in the convent for a man of wit; and I wiſh that Mademoiſelle de Go-- may have diſcovered eloquence in your ſilence. If you intend, when you ſee her again, to behave juſt in the ſame manner, I deſire that you would bring along with you your preſident, and he ſhall talk for you both.—In fine, my ſiſter informed me of the ſchemes ſhe had laid. She told me, that if I found in myſelf any inclination for Mademoiſelle de Go--, it was abſolutely neceſſary for me to manage in ſuch manner, as to acquire the love of her father; and that ſhe was perſuaded, if I had a deſire to make her my wife, that her friends would not refuſe the offer. I returned her thanks for all her care on my account. But, my dear ſiſter, ſaid I, I make not my happineſs conſiſt in the marquis's conſent alone; I ſhall never ſpeak to him upon the ſubject, till I have his lovely daughter's permiſſion to do it. I love

her

her too well to wiſh to marry her, without knowing whether I ſhall be happy enough to be agreeable to her. It is your own buſineſs, replied my ſiſter, to inform her of your ſentiments; and I can aſſure you, that if you ſhould arrive at the good fortune of being beloved by her, I ſhall eſteem you the happieſt man in the whole world. I will talk to her concerning you; come and paſs your afternoon here, and as ſoon as you arrive, ask for her. She then left the parlour.

I returned to my lodgings, my mind filled with flattering hopes ---When a perſon is in love, our ſpirits are elevated and depreſſed by the ſlighteſt occurrence. While I ſat at dinner, I ſent a ſervant to inquire after the health of Madam de Go—. The marquis returned me thanks for my regard; he informed me, that the marchioneſs was ſurpriſingly well, and that he deſired the favour of my company to ſup with him.

I aroſe to go to the convent the moment I had dined. I inquired for Mademoiſelle de Go—, and my ſiſter. The firſt that appeared was my ſiſter, who informed me that her companion was coming along wiah a nun; but as there were two of them, the nun would not ſtay with them.---The parlour-door now opened: my ſiſter gave me a ſignal: The nun entered with Mademoiſelle de Go---, who appeared as beautiful as an angel. I made my court to the profeſſed lady, and wiſhed that ſhe might find me agreeable to her taſte; deſiring nothing with ſo much ardour, as to act in ſuch a manner, that Mademoiſelle de Go--- might hear me ſpoken of to my advantage. The nun, in return, ſhewed me infinite reſpect; and when ſhe quitted the room, ſhe ſtrictly charged my ſiſter to take care that they ſent me in a collation.

I ſpent the whole day with Mademoiſelle de Go——, in a pleaſure, the remembrance of which both charms and diſtreſſes me at the ſame moment.

ment. My ſiſter made the converſation turn upon Madam de Go—. She inveighed violently againſt her. My ſiſter was remarkable for her ſincerity; all her ſentiments were expreſſed with infinite vivacity; when ſhe loved, this vivacity made her charming: but when ſhe hated, her vivacity rendered her terrible She related to me all the chagrins that Mademoiſelle de Go--- ſuffered from the behaviour of her mother-in-law.—Mademoiſelle de Go— interrupted her; ſhe reproached her, that ſhe would give me an ill opinion of her; that I was not acquainted with her; and that I might poſſibly fancy that ſhe merited all that had happened to her.—I aſſured her, that when one had had the honour of ſeeing her, nothing could make any impreſſions that might be diſadvantageous to her. My ſiſter hearing a bell ring, told me, that I muſt now be gone from thence; it was the ſupper bell.

At my departure from the abbey, I repaired to the marquis's; I wore an air of joy that could not be concealed

from him. He asked me, if I had ſeen my ſiſter. I told him, that I was that inſtant returned from viſiting her; and that I had had the honour to pay my reſpects to Mademoiſelle de Go——. You came away very late from the abbey, returned the marquis; without doubt you found ſomething agreeable to take up your time there? I ſeized on this opportunity to ſpeak of Mademoiſelle de Go--, and did it with all the juſtice that was due to her merit. What I ſaid, ſeemed to give pleaſure to Monſieur de Go----- He told me, that the tender affection he bore to her, had hindred him from taſting all that ſatisfaction which the birth of his ſon ought naturally to afford him; and that the fortune of his daughter was ruined. At this moment a ſervant announced the preſident. When the firſt compliments were over, he asked the marquis what was the meaning of the ſorrow that appeared on his countenance. I was talking of my daughter, anſwered the marquis. I am deeply affected with her lot.—You are greatly

in

in the wrong to afflict yourſelf, returned the preſident; I am aſſured that Mademoiſelle de Go—— will be but the happier for it; ſhe thinks with delicacy; and ſhe will be more affected by thoſe proofs of attachment that ſhall now be given to her; her admirers will addreſs themſelves to her merit, and not to her fortune. We have no longer the happineſs to meet with perſons of this turn of mind, rejoined the marquis; it was indeed the faſhion of my younger days. The preſident ſeized his hand, and ſaid to him, I will convince you that there are perſons yet left of this way of thinking; and then ſinking his voice, I will talk to you upon the ſubject tomorrow.

I heard the diſcourſe, and all my joy was baniſhed; jealouſy and hatred for the preſident took full poſſeſſion of me; I was in a violent ſituation, and knew not during the whole ſupper-time in what manner to behave. Monſieur de Go—- told me, that he had mentioned me to his lady; that ſhe

deſired to ſee me; and that if I would do him the honour to take a dinner with him the next day, I ſhould oblige him.—I could not accept his offer; I was under a neceſſity of going the next day into the country, to ſettle ſome affairs with a perſon who was confined there by illneſs, and I ſhould be obliged to ſtay there ſeveral days. I told my ſtory to the marquis, who returned in anſwer, that it ſhould be then after my return.—The preſident brought me back to my lodgings; I had pretended to find myſelf indiſpoſed, in order to get an opportunity of withdrawing in good time. When I was in bed, I formed a thouſand projects to bring to a good iſſue my deſign of marrying Mademoiſelle de Go——. At firſt ſight they all appeared infallible; but the laſt difficulty that occured to my thoughts upon the occaſion, made them vaniſh. This formidable preſident threw me into deſpair, with his to-morrow. Such is the effect of what we eagerly wiſh for, my dear chevalier; too flattering hopes

hopes and deſpair, ariſe from one and the ſame principle.—As ſoon as I was up and dreſt, I went to viſit my ſiſter. I related to her all the occurrences of the preceding evening; the diſcourſe of the preſident; and the fears that I had on his account: I told her, that being under a neceſſity of ſetting out for the country, I was loſt if ſhe would not take pity upon me; and, that rather than ſee the preſident in poſſeſſion of Mademoiſelle de Go—, I would expoſe myſelf to the greateſt of dangers. My ſiſter gave me time to vent my paſſion; and when ſhe ſaw me recover my uſual calmneſs, Do not give way to your deſpair, brother, ſaid ſhe; I believe without difficulty all that you tell me concerning the preſident; but ſatisfy yourſelf, and be aſſured, that he will never be the husband of Mademoiſelle de Go—. My ſiſter knowthat I was to ſet out early in the morning, bid me adieu. I would not part from her till I had exacted a promiſe, that ſhe would write to me; that ſhe would ſpeak in my behalf to Mademoiſelle

moiſelle de Go—, and that ſhe would read to that lady all the letters that ſhe ſhould receive from me. You demand a number of things from me, anſwered my ſiſter; but however, go about your buſineſs with your mind perfectly at reſt; and I aſſure you, that I will take care to do every thing that you have required of me.

I was obliged to continue in the country fifteen days, in which time I wrote ſeveral letters to my ſiſter, and received ſeveral anſwers to them from her. I asked the count whether he had not preſerved theſe letters ſtill; I found one of them again, replied he, a few days ago; the reading of which has recalled to my thoughts the happy days of my life. There are no more of theſe days remaining for me, my dear chevalier, added he, with an air of the moſt piercing grief. He gave me to read the letter that he had recovered. I forgot to return it to him, and he thought no more of it; he was too much taken up with what he had been talking of to me. I found it ſuch,

that

that I took a copy of the letter; and told the count what I had done when I reſtored him the original.—Here it is.

The LETTER.

" I beg you, my dear brother, to
" think no more of praiſing me for my
" wit; even tho' it ſhould be true that
" I am not deſtitute of it, yet it is
" not to you that I would ſhew it.
" If I really write well, as you ſay,
" it is evidently becauſe I have an elo-
" quent heart; there is nothing but
" the heart that has any thing to do
" in the letters that you receive from
" me; therefore, my dear brother,
" the only praiſe that I ask of you, is,
" to love me greatly; and to have ſo
" much confidence in me as not to
" torment your mind in the manner
" that you do. This is the only thing
" that can make me believe that you
" entertain a good opinion of me.
" Your laſt letter was charming and
" more paſſionate than all the reſt
" that you have written to me. The

" moment

" moment that I had received it, I " read it to Mademoiſelle de Go----, " and asked her opinion of it. She " anſwered me, that it was very well " written. And is that all, ſaid I to " her? All that ſhe gave to anſwer " my dear brother was, ſhe ſmiled " with a deep bluſh, and embraced " me paſſionately.----Adieu, haſten " your return."

I ſet out upon my return the day after the receipt of this letter, reſumed the count, when he ſaw that I had done reading: I got off my horſe at the abbey; it was very ſoon in the morning, and I enquired only for my ſiſter; I examined her to know what Mademoiſelle de Go--- had ſaid to her on the ſubject of my letters; I deſired to know whether ſhe had diſcovered that ſhe was the lady mentioned in them. In fine, whether I might flatter myſelf with the hopes of making myſelf agreeable to her.---How troubleſome you are, replied my ſiſter, laughing, I have written to you enough on that point. Go to the marquis, added ſhe,

ſhe, take care to make yonr court handſomely to him; and above all, remember when you are in company with his lady, never to contradict her. Uſe all the art and wit you are maſter of to flatter her opinions. Here ſhe left me. I repaired to the marquis's; he was in his lady's apartment. I was conducted thither; he came up to meet me, and introduced me to Madam de Go----, whom I thought exceedingly handſome. She received me with an eaſy affable air, like a perſon with whom ſhe had long been intimate, and for whom ſhe had a value. She had a vivacity, a gaiety of countenance, that ſeemed to inſpire joy. She asked me, if I knew a great many people at Rouen? I anſwered her, that I had not yet been any where but at her houſe, and at the abbey; that the reſt of the people whom I had ſeen were tradeſmen, and people of buſineſs. I find that you lodge at an inn, ſaid ſhe; but here is an apartment which is entirely at your ſervice, and which we beg you will make uſe of

while

while you ſtay in this country. I will ſhew you that we have a great many agreeable diverſions and amuſements at Rouen. Monſieur de Go--- has given me an exceeding good character of you; I ſhare in his ſentiments; and I deſire that you will be juſt as free here as you would at your own houſe. She kept me to dinner, and ſhewed me a thouſand marks of her reſpect; the converſation was very lively during the whole repaſt. I followed my ſiſter's inſtructions to a tittle, and I found the good conſequences of it. The preſident made one of the company; and I thought that the marchioneſs and he ſpoke to each other with ſome bitterneſs. When the dinner was over, the marquis led me to ſee the apartment that was appointed for me; I found it very handſome. As I came out of it, I met my ſervants loaded with the portmanteaus which the marchioneſs had ſent them orders to bring to my new lodging. Moved with this proof of regard, I flew directly to her apartment, to ſhew her my gratitude for ſuch

ſuch favours. As I was entering, I heard her talking very loud, and as if in high paſſion, utter theſe words, " We ſhall ſee which of us two ſhall " carry the day; I will make you " know the condition in which—." She had not time to ſay more. I was announced. I found Madam de Go-- alone with the preſident, and I thanked her for all her bounty to me; ſhe ſhewed me abundance of complaiſance, with the ſame gaiety and affable air that ſhe wore when I left her. But it was not ſo with the preſident; he endeavoured to force a ſmile, but he had anger painted upon his countenance. He asked me, where I had left the marquis? I anſwered, that I imagined he might be in the garden; he turned to Madam de Go--, and ſaid, that he would go and bear him company. The marchioneſs regarding him with an air of reſentment, replied to him, You are at your own liberty, Sir: and then turning to me, ſhe enquired of me when I ſhould go to the abbey? and having anſwered, that

that I purpoſed going there the next day; If you would oblige me, ſaid ſhe, you will engage mademoiſelle your ſiſter, to come and take up her reſidence with me; you will be more within the reach of your buſineſs; and I have a great deſire to contract an intimacy and friendſhip with her. I have heard an exceeding good character of her, and I intend to bring out Mademoiſelle de Go——, to keep her company.--I knew not what word to make uſe of to expreſs my gratitude to the marchioneſs. I anſwered her, that I would make my ſiſter acquainted with the favour that ſhe was deſirous of doing to one of us, as well as the other; and that I did not doubt, but that ſhe would be extremely ſenſible of the honour intended her.

I ſpent the whole day with the marchioneſs. I amuſed myſelf very agreeably in her company, and made my court to her as far as was poſſible for me to do. She talked to me of Mademoiſelle de Go----, and demanded whether I had ſeen her that morning? I an-

I anſwered her, that I had not ſeen her; that as it was very early, I was fearful of diſturbing her. She is very amiable, returned ſhe, but I think her a little too grave; it is true, ſhe has ſome reaſon to be melancholy; but I will bring her abroad to give her ſome diverſion. I wiſh I could get her a good husband; if I were to ſee her take the veil, I ſhould reproach myſelf with having been the occaſion of it,---It will be no difficult task, madam, replied I, to remove all your concern on that point; for in the ſhort ſpace that I have had the honour to ſee Mademoiſelle de Go-----, I have obſerved ſo much merit in her, that I am perſuaded, that her change of fortune will be no obſtacle to her eſtabliſhment. Do you find her then agreeable to your taſte, ſaid the marchioneſs to me. For my part, I knew not what anſwer to make, and ſhe took notice of my confuſion; but being unwilling to let me ſee that ſhe obſerved it, ſhe added in the ſame ſtrain, and without any affectation, I ask

you

you the queſtion in order to entertain the better opinion of you. We uſually diſcover the merit of the man, by the judgment which they make of the perſons whom they ſee, and by the praiſes which they give to thoſe who are deſerving of them. As I have a deſire to be ranked in the number of your friends, I am deſirous likewiſe of knowing you perfectly. I returned her my thanks, and told her, that I had obſerved in Mademoiſelle de Go——, a character as charming as it was eſtimable; and that I was aſſured, that ſhe muſt be agreeable to every perſon who ſhould have the happineſs to be acquainted with her.

At this moment entered the marquis, and the preſident; we ſat down to table. During the ſupper-time, Madam de Go--- ſaid to her husband, that ſhe had begged me to engage my ſiſter to come and paſs the reſt of the time that ſhe ſhould ſtay at Rouen with her, at their own houſe; and that ſhe would bring Mademoiſelle de Go— from the abbey to keep her company.

His

His anſwer was, that ſhe could not do any thing more agreeable. The preſident appeared charmed with the reſolution of the marchioneſs; he began upon the praiſes of Mademoiſelle de Go——, and talked a whole half hour upon the ſubject without ſtopping for a moment. Madam de Go----, provoked at him, could not reſtrain herſelf from ſaying to him; You, monſieur, have a manner of praiſing, that is capable of tiring even the very perſons that you praiſe; believe me, it is not that eternal chatter that perſuades; two words ſaid to the purpoſe, which convince us that they know all the merit of the perſon who is the ſubject of the diſcourſe, are far preferable to all that you have ſaid to us for this hour paſt. I heard Mademoiſelle de Go----- praiſed this day by a gentleman; and I am aſſured, that if ſhe had heard him, as I did, ſhe would have been infinitely more affected by his conciſe ſpeech, than by all your flowing eloquence.---The preſident ſeemed piqued, and replied, with

a forced ſmile, that he was unfortunate in not having praiſed according to her taſte; that perhaps Mademoiſelle de Go--- would think in a different manner from her, when he ſhould make her acquainted with the ſentiments which had occaſioned him to ſay what he had done. Madam de Go— then turned the converſation to ſomething elſe.

I was inconceivably delighted during this diſcourſe. I had ſpent the whole day in the Marchioneſs's company; there was no other perſon therefore but myſelf to whom that ſpeech which ſhe had made with reſpect to Mademoiſelle de Go---, could poſſibly have any relation.----We quickly afterwards aroſe from table, and I withdrew into my apartment.

As ſoon as it was day, I repaired to the abbey. I related to my ſiſter all that had paſſed: ſhe liſtened to me with an air of aſtoniſhment that I did not obſerve till I had made an end of all my diſcourſe. Well, what think you of all this, brother? replied ſhe. I think

think, ſaid I, that I am the moſt happy of mortals; and that if Mademoiſelle de Go--- ſhould eſteem me worthy of dedicating the remainder of my days to her, the marchioneſs will be the firſt perſon to engage her husband to grant me that which is the only thing in the world that can compleat my happineſs. I know not what to anſwer you, returned my ſiſter, I can by no means comprehend this management of Madam de Go----. For my own part, I was ſo taken up with my paſſion, that I had never reflected, that in fact many things had happened ſince the morning; my ſiſter's diſcourſe turned my attention that way, and I asked her, whether ſhe did not believe that all theſe things that had happened to me were not really favourable to my paſſion. It may be ſo, replied ſhe, but take care of yourſelf, and act with prudence. This affair has too favourable a look, and is come on ſo ſuddenly, that I confeſs I have a great miſtruſt of ſomething wrong in it. Adieu, I am going to give an account

of all to Mademoiſelle de Go——. As for us, we will keep ourſelves in readineſs for noon; you will have nothing to do but to come and fetch us. I recommended to her to conſtrain herſelf with reſpect to the marchioneſs, and to take care that ſhe ſhould not give her any room to diſcover the ill opinion that ſhe entertained of her. I begged her likewiſe to endeavour to diſcover whether I might hope to be able to gain the love of Mademoiſelle de Go--. I adore her, my ſiſter, added I with tranſport; you who have flattered my paſſion, will you refuſe to be aſſiſtant to me in it. She aſſured me, that I might depend upon every aſſiſtance that ſhe was capable of; I then left her to follow my affairs of buſineſs.

My father had a conſiderable ſum of money due to him from a merchant of Rouen: this merchant was a man of exceeding good credit; he had great protection; lending his money to all the young counſellors of the parliament, who in their turn took care to prevent any trouble from happening

to him. I ſoon diſcovered that I ſhould find a difficulty in compelling him to pay me; this did not indeed chagrin me much, for my heart was totally occupied, and I was inſenſible to the reſt.

I returned to the marquis's, having learned that Madam de Go----- was awakened; I went to return her thanks from my ſiſter, and told her, that at noon the two young ladies would wait her commands. Madam de Go— commanded the horſes to be put to the coach, and ſent it to fetch them. I would have gone with it, but ſhe ſtopped me, telling me, that I muſt keep her company. This threw me into an embarraſſment. I had not yet ſpoken of my paſſion to Mademoiſelle de Go---. I doubted not but that my ſiſter had fulfilled every thing that ſhe had promiſed me; but I was a ſtranger to the ſentiments of that amiable lady. While we were in converſation, the leaſt noiſe that I heard, I imagined that it was ſhe, and the colour mounted up into my face at the thought. The

dread I had upon me leſt the marchioneſs ſhould diſcover what paſſed in my thoughts, when I ſhould ſee Mademoiſelle de Go--, did but augment that air of embarraſſment that I dreaded having. At length the coach arrived. I would have gone down, but the marchioneſs kept me back, telling me, young perſons love to be by themſelves, let them alone to come up at their leiſure. I was in ſuch an agitation, that I no longer knew what nor where I was; and if Madam de Go---, who was no novice in thoſe effects which are the reſults of a great and violent paſſion, had thought of me in a different manner, I ſhould have ruined all my affairs: but ſhe was favourable to me; my embarraſſment gave her an air of gaiety, which made me believe that ſhe had perceived nothing of my diſorder. She went to the very door of her apartment to receive my ſiſter, and ſhe embraced Mademoiſelle de Go— with tenderneſs. The marquis entered after the firſt compliments were paſſed: he asked his lady which

was the apartment that ſhe had appointed for my ſiſter. Mademoiſelle de G---- now ſpoke, and anſwered, that my ſiſter choſe rather to take part of her's, and deſired her to come and ſee it.---I gave my hand to Mademoiſelle de Go —. We went out, and left the marquis and marchioneſs alone by themſelves. At the door we met with the preſident, who according to his cuſtom made very long, tedious compliments; then offered his hand to my ſiſter, who durſt not refuſe it, and conducted us every where.

We returned at length to the marchioneſs's apartment who was talking to her husband of things that ſeemed to be of great importance to her. She had an animated air; and, without ſeeming to ſee us when we entered the room, ſhe ſaid to the marquis, taking his hand with thoſe careſſing and flattering ways that ſhe was to the moſt ſupreme degree miſtreſs of, it is ſufficient that ſhe belong to you, for me to wiſh that ſhe may be happy. He has too much evil in his temper; I

have views that are much more to her advantage; and then advancing towards my ſiſter, ſhe asked her, if her apartment was agreeable to her, and gave her a thouſand careſſes.----The preſident all the time had an air of uneaſineſs and diſquiet.

After dinner the marchioneſs ſent for the violins; Mademoiſelle de Go--- danced with a grace that would have been capable of rendering amorous the moſt cold and inſenſible man in the world. There appeared abundance of company: the marchioneſs gave them a ſupper; there was a great number of fine women, all of whom ſerved to no other purpoſe, but as foils to ſet off the charms of Mademoiſelle de Go---. It was impoſſible to ſee her without being affected by it; there was no reſiſting the force of that lovely face, at once ſo charming and ſo modeſt. The marchioneſs made her ſing; ſhe had the moſt moving voice; ſhe gave life to every word ſhe ſpoke; all was charming in her mouth. Whatever ſhe expreſſed by her voice, made

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impreſſions that were ſeen painted on the countenances of all thoſe who were ſo happy as to hear her. As for me, I was ſo highly enchanted, that I remained motionleſs; and in the midſt of all the praiſes that reſounded from every ſide. I was the only perſon that ſaid not a ſingle word. The marchioneſs took notice of it. She maliciouſly asked me, what I thought of her, and why I was ſilent? I told her in anſwer, that I found the praiſe which Mademoiſelle de Go-- merited ſo far above every thing that I could ſay upon the ſubject, that ſilence was my only reſource. The Marchioneſs looked upon Mademoiſelle de Go--- with a ſmile.

Supper ended, I conducted Mademoiſelle de Go--- to her apartment; my ſiſter asked her permiſſion to invite me to come and breakfaſt with her. This amiable lady anſwered her, that ſhe was at liberty to do as was moſt agreeable. I went back to the marchioneſs's apartment: ſhe entered into a converſation with me about my ſiſter; ſhe told me, that ſhe felt an in-

clination for her; that I muſt do my endeavour to engage her to love her in return. I deſire to owe you this obligation, ſaid ſhe; let us live together like one and the ſame family.---I took her hand and kiſſed it: you ought to love me, reſumed ſhe, I have a great deſire to do you ſervice. The marquis now entered. I took my leave of them both, and retired to my chamber and bed; but ſleep was no longer made for me. I again ran over in my thought every thing that I had admired in Mademoiſelle de Go---. Nothing had eſcaped my memory. When one loves, my dear chevalier, what do we not think on, and recal to our minds?

The moment that I ſaw the day, I aroſe and gave order to one of my ſervants to wait at the door of the apartment of Mademoiſelle de Go----, till my ſiſter ſhould appear, to enquire from her, when, without being troubleſome, I might wait upon her in her chamber.---Two hours after they came to inform me that I might go in; I inquired after the health of Mademoiſelle

ſelle de Go ----. She anſwered me, that as ſhe had gone to bed much later than the uſual time, it had prevented her ſleeping. My ſiſter ſaid, that it had happened to her in the ſame manner, and asked me, if I had met with the ſame fortune? Yes, ſaid I to her, looking all the time at Mademoiſelle de Go---, do you think that I have been able to ſleep this night? All the anſwer my ſiſter made me, was, Come, brother, let us go to breakfaſt; there ſhe ſet herſelf a-talking of the marchioneſs, with all her uſual vivacity; while ſhe thus ran on, I was ſo taken up in admiration of Mademoiſelle de Go----, that I underſtood not a word of all ſhe ſaid. I was wrapped up in thought; meditating in myſelf what way I ſhould take to mention my paſſion to her. Filled with this idea; yes, it will be my death, ſaid I aloud, and with vivacity. My ſiſter was aſtoniſhed to hear me thus: pray don't you think he's mad, ſaid ſhe to Mademoiſelle de Go---. This lovely perſon ſmiled with a moſt charming bluſh, and replied,

that without doubt my imagination was employed on ſome ſubject very different from what ſhe had been talking of. I continued ſtupid and ſpeechleſs; when, to heighten my confuſion, a ſervant came for my ſiſter to go to the marchioneſs. Mademoiſelle de Go-- was going down likewiſe, but the ſervant prevented her; telling her, that it was my ſiſter only that was ſent for. I remained with Mademoiſelle de Go---. The moment that I had ſo often and ſo earneſtly wiſhed for, was now arrived, and yet I had not a word to ſay. This amiable lady firſt broke ſilence, and talked to me upon different ſubjects. I gazed upon her, but anſwered not a word; at length throwing myſelf at her feet, I ſwore to her, that I adored her. My diſcourſe was broken, and without connexion, but Love ſpoke in every word, and Love was likewiſe hearer. I was beloved, my dear chevalier; ſhe bid me ariſe when my ſiſter came in. How have I wiſhed for you! ſaid ſhe to her; your brother continues in his reveries;

ries; is it not monſtrous for him to be found at my feet?---He is in the place where he ſhould be, replied my ſiſter, embracing her; it no longer depends on any one but yourſelf to make him the happieſt man in the whole world. Crown our happineſs, my dear companion. What has happened then? demanded Mademoiſelle de Go------. The marchioneſs, replied my ſiſter, is a moſt charming woman; ſhe has juſt told me, that if you conſent to marry my brother, there is nothing wanting but to ſpeak to the marquis; and that ſhe takes on herſelf the care of giving a happy turn to all our affairs. Joy and ſatisfaction at that moment appeared painted on the countenance of Mademoiſelle de Go----. You ſee, cried ſhe to my ſiſter, that I was in the right, when I told you that we ought never to ſpeak ill of perſons who acted the moſt unkindly by us; aud that it was ſometimes thoſe who laboured the moſt for our happineſs. Mine ſurely was perfect in that moment. I embraced the knees of this lovely lady; my

action made her perceive at once the favour ſhe had ſhewn me. Too much occupied with thinking on me, ſhe had forgotten that I was preſent with her; her heart had betrayed her; ſhe thought that ſhe had ſaid not ſo much. How delightful was that moment for me? I enjoyed the pleaſure there is in thinking that one is beloved again by that perſon who is adored by us. She permitted me to believe myſelf beloved. Gods, how compleat was then my happineſs!

My ſiſter gave me inſtructions in what manner it was proper for me to addreſs myſelf to the marquis. She counſelled me to go and return my thanks to Madam de Go----; I went to her apartment, and declared to her the grateful ſenſe that I had of her favour; ſhe aſſured me of her friendſhip, and recommended to me to wait two days more before I explained my ſentiments to the marquis; becauſe ſhe hoped to prepoſſeſs him in favour of my deſign; that I might ſpend that time without any diſquiet, and might

depend

depend upon her conduct for every thing. I returned to the apartment of Mademoiſelle de Go---. I repeated to her all that the marchioneſs had ſaid. You muſt exactly follow, replied ſhe to me, all the rules that ſhe ſhall lay down for you. The ſame day after dinner, they continued near an hour locked up together in a cloſet: when Mademoiſelle de Go-- came out, ſhe was all diſſolved in tears. I approached her trembling; I dreaded leſt ſome misfortune had happened. What am I to think, mademoiſelle, ſaid I to her? may I ſtill hope to be happy ?- --She replied, that I had nothing to fear; that ſhe had been greatly moved by the kindneſſes of the marchioneſs, which alone had been the cauſe of her tears; and that ſhe was going to dry them up in the company of my ſiſter. I made a motion to follow her. Stay, ſaid ſhe to me, ſome perſon might obſerve that you went out with me; ſhe held her hand out to me, which I kiſſed with tranſport, whoſe raviſhing ſweetneſs is known to none but thoſe who truly love. She

preſſed

preſſed my hand with her's, and ſaid, My dear count, go in again. How charming was that word in her lovely mouth! The marchioneſs had often called me the ſame, and I had never given any attention to it. I paſſed the two days that I was obliged to wait before I ſpoke to the marquis, in the moſt perfect happineſs. I was always at the knees of Mademoiſelle de Go---. I vowed an eternal affection; I continued without ceaſing to repeat thoſe proteſtations. What pleaſure did I not feel in making thoſe declarations! She was never weary of hearing me, my dear chevalier. How happy were we both!

The evening of the day before that on which I was to make my propoſals to the marquis, the preſident came to ſupper, and told Mademoiſelle de Go--- that he had been invited to go into the country for a week, and that he had found himſelf under a neceſſity of accepting the office. The marchioneſs told him in return, that he would be in the right to enjoy the ſweets of the early ſpring; for we were now in the

the month of April. He asked her when mademoiſelle would go back again to the convent? She will not go again for a long time, replied the marchioneſs; I intend to let her ſee the world. The preſident appeared charmed with this reſolution. After ſupper he took leave of the marchioneſs, made long compliments to Mademoiſelle de Go---- and my ſiſter, and at length departed.

I wiſhed Madam de Go— a good night, who bid me by no means forget the next morning early to go and talk to the marquis: I ſpent part of the night in writing to my mother on the ſubject of my marriage; being deſirous that ſhe ſhould give her approbation to the ſettlements which I intended to make on Mademoiſelle de Go---. My ſiſter wrote likewiſe to her on the ſame ſubject.

As ſoon as I ſaw it was the time of the marquis's riſing, I repaired to his apartment; I ſaw by his air that he was well acquainted with the buſineſs I came upon. I had no occaſion for making

making many words; I told him, that penetrated with a due ſenſe of his kindneſs, I had preſumed to flatter myſelf that he would not take it ill that I ſhould aſpire to the honour of being related to him; that having no longer a father, I wiſhed to find one again in him; that I defired him to grant me Mademoiſelle de Go——; and that I wiſhed for no other happineſs than that of being united with her. The marquis took my hand, tears flowed in his eyes, and he claſped me in his arms. I give to you, replied he, with the moſt perfect joy, all that you demand of me. You are the conſolation of my old age. The lot of my dear daughter ſheds bitterneſs over every occurrence of my life. She is going to be happy: How great is my ſatisfaction, monſieur! and what honour is it not for me to enjoy a ſon like you? He called for a ſervant, whom he commanded to go and tell Mademoiſelle de Go—— to come down that moment. In an inſtant afterwards ſhe came; the marquis took my hand, See

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the preſent that I make you, my dear daughter, ſaid he, preſenting me to her; do you not receive it with pleaſure? Embrace, my dear children, ſaid he to us. What raptures did it not give me to obey him! I threw myſelf at the feet of Mademoiſelle de Go—; ſhe raiſed me up, and I embraced her. How charming did ſhe appear, my dear chevalier! ſhe had a modeſt, embarraſſed, and tender air. Who could have looked upon her and retired not a lover? How beautiful did ſhe look when ſhe quitted my arms? She went and threw herſelf into thoſe of her father; and it was thus, that ſhe ſhewed her approbation of the preſent that he had juſt been making her.

The marquis then related to me the particulars of the fortune that he gave his daughter; and ſeemed extremely affected when he found that the ſentiments that I entertained for her rendered me totally diſintereſted with regard to fortune. After ſome converſation, that marked an equal ſatisfaction on either ſide, he went out to ſpeak

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to Madam de Go---, and left me alone with his amiable daughter. I threw myſelf at her feet; my dear chevalier, what ſatisfaction did we not enjoy, we expreſſed it by a ſilence in which Love himſelf ſpoke for us; for ſurely terms are wanting to deſcribe the ſenſations of a heart truly and ſincerely touched. They now came for us to attend the marchioneſs in her apartment; ſhe expreſſed before us ſentiments of the moſt exceſſive generoſity; and told the marquis that ſhe read in our eyes that the greateſt favour we could deſire, and he grant, was to conſent that our marriage ſhould be ſpeedily concluded: that it was neceſſary to make all the preparations requiſite for the purpoſe; that the next day, which happened to be on a Sunday, one of the banns ſhould be publiſhed, and that a licence for diſpenſing with the other two ſhould be procured by money; and that the ceremony of our marriage ſhould be performed the inſtant that my mother's conſent and approbation ſhould arrive, to give her ſanction to it. The marquis

quis bid his daughter go and finiſh her dreſs; ſhe was but juſt got out of bed when he had ſent for her. Give her your hand, my ſon, ſaid he to me, beholding us with a ſatisfaction that ſeemed to give him new youth again. We went to find my ſiſter, who was under the greateſt impatience to know all that had paſſed at this interview. What an air of ſatisfaction do I ſee in you, ſaid ſhe to us! I am, my dear ſiſter, anſwered I, at the heighth of happineſs. Mademoiſelle de Go---- threw herſelf into her arms, and we then related to her all the paſſages of our converſation with the marquis and his lady. Her joy was likewiſe compleat.

We paſſed the days that we were obliged to wait in expectation of my mother's anſwer, in reciprocal declarations of our mutual tenderneſs. We will love each other with a never-dying paſſion, my dear count, ſaid Mademoiſelle de Go---- to me. How happily will our days glide on! I am in fear of nothing but the unhappineſs of diſpleaſing you; and I ſhall be ſo attentive

tentive to prevent it, that I ſhall in truth have nothing to give me any apprehenſions. It was Love itſelf that inſpired her with ſpeech ; it was Love that animated her hopes ; but, oh heaven ! I have been wretched enough to make her experience the reverſe.

My mother's anſwer came; it was ſuch as I had wiſhed it; I preſented it to the marchioneſs, and afterwards laid it before the marquis. The marriage-contract was ſigned and executed ; and the ſame night our marriage was celebrated. In theſe moments I thought, my dear chevalier, as you do now ; I fancied in myſelf that I had no longer any cares or anxiety to be apprehenſive of. I ſaw myſelf happily poſſeſſed of the moſt amiable woman in the world ; I adored her, and ſhe returned my love with the ſincereſt of affection. Oh Love ! how dearly doſt thou make us purchaſe all our joys !

The preſident heard in the country of the news of my marriage with Mademoiſelle de Go-----. Fury and madneſs took poſſeſſion of his ſoul ; he came

came back to Rouen, and repaired to the marchioneſs's houſe. We were then in her apartment with her, when the ſervant announced his arrival; ſhe told my wife to carry me and my ſiſter into her own apartment; ſhe remained alone with him, and in appearance reſtored him to a little tranquility. An hour after he came into my wife's apartment, and made her a compliment upon her marriage. He had a faultering voice; ſhe preſented me to him; he coloured and embraced me without once looking up upon me, telling me, that I was the happieſt of men. He withdrew a moment after. He had thrown me into no little embarraſſment. My ſiſter told us, laughing, that he had almoſt moved her compaſſion for him. He muſt be deeply pierced with ſorrow indeed, ſaid ſhe to us, to have been capable of ſaying ſo little on the occaſion. I turned the converſation; I could not bear to hear him talked of; I am of a diſpoſition extremely jealous. The paſſion that I knew he had for my wife, carried my hatred for him to ſuch a point,

a point, that I could not ſo much as hear his name mentioned without uneaſineſs and chagrin. My jealouſy was equal to my love.---I flattered myſelf that it proceeded from nothing but from the delicacy of my ſentiments. But, oh my dear chevalier! how miſerable is our ſituation, when we reſign ourſelves up to the violence of our paſſions! We are filled with errors and caprices; and in order to excuſe ourſelves the better, we give them the ſpecious title of delicacy,

My ſiſter told us, that it would be proper for us to go and keep the marchioneſs company; we found the preſident alone with her, and I heard him ſay to her in an angry tone, I ſhall find ſome means to hinder it.---He withdrew when he ſaw us entring, and we remained with the marchioneſs. In the courſe of our converſation, we happened to touch upon the law-ſuit upon my hands. My ſiſter told Madam de Go-------, that it was neceſſary that ſhe ſhould ask the favour of the preſident to put an end to this affair;

fair; that unleſs ſome perſon of authority ſhould interfere in it, we ſhould find great difficulty in compelling this merchant to pay the debt. You know, added ſhe, addreſſing herſelf to me, that my mother has given it in charge that we ſhould not depart from hence till the whole affair ſhould be determined.---The marchioneſs ſeemed loſt in deep thought all the time that my ſiſter was talking. I will look out for ſome other protector, rather than the preſident, replied ſhe to my ſiſter; he goes very little to the parliament, and conſequently he has very little intereſt or power. I was extremely pleaſed to find that ſhe would not ſuffer me to owe him this obligation.

The preſident came to us at ſupper; his air was tolerably calm and tranquil; he loaded my wife with compliment and praiſe.---Madam de Go--- no longer ſhewed him the ſame kind of behaviour that ſhe had diſplayed before our marriage. She frequently directed her ſpeech to him with all the appearance of friendſhip and regard; ſhe

ſhe applauded every word that fell from him. I obſerved it all, and I was well aſſured that her aim was to ſoften and mitigate the trouble and concern that ſhe had been the author of to him.

Madam de Go---- now began to go abroad, and ſhe received abundance of viſitors; as ſhe was paſſionately fond of pleaſure, ſhe took the opportunity of her daughter-in-law's marriage to give publick entertainments. There was nothing to be ſeen for many days but grand feaſtings, balls, and conſorts; at all which my wife did the honours of the houſe. As for me, I found no ſort of pleaſure in theſe kind of things; neither were they any thing more agreeable to my wife's taſte.----The preſident managed ſo as to be always about my wife. I durſt not, for fear of making myſelf ridiculous, do the like; and every time that he addreſſed his diſcourſe to me, he threw me into a cruel diſquiet.

One night, as I was withdrawing, the marchioneſs made me a ſign that ſhe

ſhe wanted to ſpeak to me. I waited till the company was retired. When we were alone, my ſon, ſaid ſhe, with an air of goodneſs, your marriage is my own work, and a proof of the friendſhip I have for you; I would give another mark of it alſo. Although I am yet young, I perfectly well know the world and the deſigns to which it expoſes even the moſt excellent diſpoſitions.---Your ſcheme of life is to live retired upon your eſtate; take away your wife from hence, and carry her thither; ſuffer not the mind to be intoxicated by the falſe pleaſures that make up the entertainment of the grand monde; ſhe loves you, but ſhe herſelf is lovely; and you are not the only perſon who have a tenderneſs for her. It may happen that a paſſion which ſhe ſees unfortunate and faithful, may produce in her ſome emotion of pity. She is compaſſionate; that which will form your happineſs in retirement, is the very circumſtance that would create your miſery, ſhould you leave her expoſed to the allurements of

faſhionable company. I have ſtrictly examined her character and temper, ever ſince ſhe came out of the convent. Reflect on what I have ſaid to you, monſieur? it is my attachment, my regard for you, which obliges me to explain my ſentiments upon her account.---At the very moment, I felt ſuch emotions of jealouſy as I could no longer conſtrain; I ſwallowed large draughts of this cruel poiſon, and I recalled to my thought all the ſpeeches that I had heard made by the preſident to Monſieur de Go-----. I determined to haſten the deciſion of my law-ſuit; and I withdrew into my apartment, full of the reflexions that the marchioneſs had occaſioned me to make.---My wife inquired of me what it was that the marchioneſs had to ſay to me? I pretended ſome buſineſs of intereſt, not being willing that ſhe ſhould learn what it was that engaged my thoughts.

One night, when the marchioneſs had gone out for a week, ſhe ſaid to us, that we ſhould ſtay to receive com-

pany

pany that was expected; ſhe made an entertainment that night, and gave a ſupper.---When ſhe returned again, I was entertained at play; my wife, my ſiſter, and the preſident were all ſtanding near a window. I perceived when Madam de Go---- came in again, the preſident removed to a diſtance from my wife, who immediately coloured very much; the marchioneſs gave me a ſign to take notice of it. I comprehended but too fully all that ſhe wanted to make me underſtand. This bluſhing, and ſomething that I fancied I diſcovered in her eyes, made me imagine that there was a correſpondence between my wife and the preſident.--I was ſo ſtruck, that I fainted away; and when I recovered my ſenſes, I found myſelf upon my bed. My wife was by me all in tears; the marchioneſs held my hand.--Comfort yourſelf, whiſpered ſhe in my ear;----you have in your wife a woman of perfect virtue; you muſt not take things with ſo much vivacity; it was the preſident only whom I intended to make you take notice of; your wife has it not in her power to

hinder him from ſpeaking to her. A moment after the company retired, but notwithſtanding all that Madam de Go---- could ſay to my wife, ſhe was determined to ſtay with me; ſhe often asked me how I did, with that tender concern that ought to have diſſipated all my ſuſpicions. But hardly did I give her any anſwer; I avoided caſting the leaſt look upon her; it did not eſcape her notice, and ſhe dreaded leſt I ſhould have found an increaſe of my illneſs. She took my hands with tenderneſs; but I drew them away, telling her that ſhe ſhould make herſelf eaſy; that I was very well. When I ſpoke to her, it was with a peeviſh air and manner. All her actions diſpleaſed me; they would indeed have been inchanting, had it not been for the jealouſy that totally poſſeſſed me; I perſuaded myſelf that they were no longer ſincere, and I no longer ſet the ſame value upon them. She was ſenſible of the manner in which I anſwered her. What is the matter with you, my deareſt husband? demanded

demanded ſhe, embracing me. My heart relented, and tears filled my eyes. What do I ſee, reſumed my wife? you anſwer me not a word. Do you no longer love me, my dear count? Never madam, have I loved you ſo much, replied I to her ſighing; but I find myſelf quite oppreſſed; I have a neceſſity for repoſe. I drew my curtain cloſe, and feigned myſelf to fall aſleep; my ſiſter came to ſee how I did. I tried as much as poſſible to hear all that my wife ſaid to her, but ſhe ſpoke too low; I heard only my ſiſter, who anſwering with vivacity, ſaid to her; If you ſpeak not to him, you will always be unhappy with your ſcruples. They came to my bed-ſide. I behaved as if I juſt then awakened. I wanted to ſee how my ſiſter would behave; ſhe asked me with ſome impatience, if I was better? I replied again, that I fancied my ſleep had cured me, for that I now found myſelf very well.---I beſought my wife to go and repoſe herſelf, but it was not in my power to prevail upon her. She

was reſolved to watch with me all the night.

As ſoon as it was day, Monſieur de Go-- came to ſee me; he kept me company for a long time. My wife went to repoſe herſelf, and I aroſe and went to viſit the marchioneſs.—The preſident was with her; he advanced towards me with great eagerneſs, aſſuring me of the uneaſineſs that my accident had given him. At that moment came in my wife; ſhe had been looking for me in my own apartment, ſuppoſing that I was ſtill in bed. The preſident went up to her. I watched him; ſhe received him exceeding coldly; ſhe wore an air of ſorrow that touched me, even in ſpite of myſelf. I obſerved that ſhe avoided ſpeaking to the preſident, or ſuffering him to place himſelf near her; this behaviour augmented my jealouſy. Since ſhe has comprehended my thoughts, ſaid I to myſelf, it muſt aſſuredly be true, and the precautions that ſhe takes in my preſence, prove that ſhe is culpable.

I ſpent

I ſpent near a month in a condition truly to be pitied: a perſon muſt have been of the character and diſpoſition of Madam de G)--, to be capable of finding pleaſure in ſeeing me ſo miſerable. Yet notwithſtanding this, I behaved with great politeneſs and good manners towards my wife. The little affection and value that I believed ſhe had for me, overwhelmed me with ſorrow, without making any alteration in the reſpect that was due from me to a woman, in other particulars ſo valuable; and when all was done, every thing ought to have proved her innocence before me. She ſhut herſelf up in her apartment whenever I went out, ſhewing me always, and at all times, the ſame tenderneſs, without ſuffering my gloomy and melancholy air, to make the leaſt alteration in her behaviour with reſpect to me. But, the more merit I diſcovered in her, ſo much the more wretched did I think myſelf. I believed that I was indebted for every thing to her virtues; and it was her heart that I wiſhed for, that I aſpired

to.—I was accuſtomed, in order to divert my chagrin, to go and walk out every day into the country. One day among the reſt, being fully occupied in meditating on my ſorrows, I walked farther than I thought I had done. I found myſelf weary, night came on, and my coach was at a diſtance; ſeeing a publick houſe, however, I went into it with a deſign to repoſe myſelf there, and to ſend a meſſenger to order my ſervant to come thither for me. I was conducted to a chamber which had never a chimney in it; I told my hoſt that I wanted a fire, but was anſwered, that there was but one chamber in the houſe where they had a conveniency for making one; and that this room was at that very time occupied by a lady and a gentleman who came very often to this place. I took my reſolution, not being able to do better, and ſent away my hoſt with orders to go and look for my coach. I was reſting myſelf in expectation of his return, when I heard the ſound of voices in the next chamber, which was only

only ſeparated from mine by a very thin partition. How great was my ſurprize when I diſcovered the voice of Madam de Go—! Ungrateful wretch, ſaid ſhe, ſee here the fruits of all thy oaths and proteſtations; I am puniſhed for every thing that I have done for you; I have ſacrificed every thing in the world for thee, and thou abandoneſt me; but I will make thee feel what it is to be hated by the object of all our affection. Her husband is jealous; it is the fruit of my ſchemes; I will compel her to hate thee more than thou hateſt me. I will ſpare nothing to render her miſerable; thou wilt be the occaſion of it; ſhe ſhall know it all, and ſhall hate and deteſt thee for it yet more than before.—The voice of a man replied to her, (I diſcovered it to be the preſident) you ſhew yourſelf, madam, in your proper colours. I am ſenſible that there is not a crime in the world of which you are not capable; I know the blackneſs of your character. It is my paſſion for you alone that renders me criminal, return-

ed the marchioneſs. Love, madam, replied the preſident, does not make our crimes, they are our vices that hurry that amiable paſſion into criminal exceſſes; it is never capable of it, but in hearts that reſemble yours. I will give thee a convincing proof of the truth of what thou ſayeſt, thou traitor! cried Madam de Go——. I know that it is thou who preventeſt their law-ſuit from receiving its final determination. This very night will I go and tell my rival that thou haſt vaunted that ſhe had beſought thee to throw obſtacles in the way to prevent the deciſion of their ſuit. I will tell the ſame to her huſband; I will make him believe that ſhe loves thee; that it is only to have an opportunity of ſeeing thee, that ſhe is ſo deſirous of ſtaying here.—Thou haſt no longer any affection but for her alone; thy love ſhall form thy puniſhment; I will make her moſt miſerable to give thee torment. I have put every art in practice that was poſſible, in order to gain the confidence of her huſband. I have ſucceeded to my wiſh, and

and all to ſerve the purpoſe of my fury and revenge. He repoſes all his truſt in me, and I will make uſe of it to torture and afflict the woman whom thy ſoul adoreth.—Madam, replied the preſident, you make me ſhudder; can you be capable of ſo black a crime? O heaven! have I been capable of loving ſo wretched a woman? Hear me, madam, added he (with a firm and reſolute tone) and give attention to the words I am now going to ſay.--I ſwear to you, by every thing that is moſt ſacred, that if you put in execution the menace which you have juſt now made me, I will go myſelf and confeſs to the count de L------, every thing that has paſſed between you and me; and that I will not ſuffer the moſt reſpectable woman in the world to be made miſerable, merely out of complaiſance to the moſt deteſtable woman in it. At this word, the marchioneſs threw herſelf into the moſt horrible fury. I can neither repeat to you her diſcourſes, nor her menaces. As for me, I ſtood motionleſs; the aſtoniſhment

that I was ſtruck with at the character and intrigue of Madam de Go--- ; the joy of knowing that my wife was perfectly innocent, and the chagrin which I reproached myſelf with having given her, all together threw me into a ſituation that I cannot poſſibly expreſs. I was aſtoniſhed, enraged, aſhamed, and grieved ; but my joy was notwithſtanding much ſuperior to my indignation. I made it a pleaſure to me, to go and declare my ſhame and my juſtice.---I left the inn to go and meet my coach, not being willing that the marchioneſs ſhould know that I had been within reach of hearing all that had paſſed ſo lately.

The moment after my arrival, I went to my wife's apartment ; ſhe was with my ſiſter, who was endeavouring to conſole her. I threw myſelf at her feet. What ſhall I do, madam, cried I to her, to make you forget all the ſorrows that I have given you ? What then has happened to you ? demanded my ſiſter. The moſt fortunate thing in the world, replied I.—I related to them all the

the converſation that I had juſt before been ſo happy as to hear. They did not appear to me in the leaſt aſtoniſhed at it. Have I not reaſon to complain? ſaid I to them both. What is the meaning, my dear wife? You love me, and you run the hazard of rendering me miſerable. For what reaſon did you conceal from me the diſpoſition of the marchioneſs? My ſiſter agreed with me that I was in the right; but my wife would not by any means acknowledge it to have been wrong. Would you have had me, ſaid ſhe, publiſh the diſhonour of my father, and that I ſhould have ſpoken ill of a woman who had ſecured my own happineſs? To this paſſion of her's it is that we are indebted for our marriage. I perſuaded myſelf that if any one endeavoured to render you jealous, that the eſteem which you had for me would have prevented them from ever making any impreſſion upon you. Thus indeed it ought to have been, my dear wife, replied I to her, but I adore you. The marchioneſs had been always ſo favourable

favourable and indulgent to me, that it was no eaſy task to reſiſt the force of thoſe converſations which ſhe had with me.---My wife was deſirous of knowing all that Madam de Go--- had told me. I ſatisfied her curioſity, and gave her my honour, that I would give her a faithful account of every thing that the marchioneſs ſhould ſay to me for the future.

Unable to recover from my aſtoniſhment at the behaviour of Madam de Go---, I inquired of my wife if that lady had been in love with the preſident for any long ſpace of time. Ever ſince ſhe was fourteen years of age, anſwered ſhe: the preſident would have married her, but as her fortune was very trifling, or rather nothing at all, his father would not by any means give his aſſent to the match. At this juncture, my father became a widower; he ſaw the preſent marchioneſs at a houſe where he frequently viſited, thought her pretty, and married her. You may imagine that it was not out of love for him, that ſhe followed the dictates

dictates of her parents. That gratitude that ſhe ought to have ſhewn for the fortune to which he brought her, did not in the leaſt prevent her, as ſoon as the warmth of it was over, from following the inclination that ſhe had for the preſident. She had meetings with him, without giving herſelf any trouble about what the world ſaid of them; and knew how, by her artful and wheedling behaviour, to manage and lead my father to ſuch a point as to make him believe that he had not a better friend in the world than the preſident. I was brought up at home; the preſident ſaw me every day and paid his court to me. Madam de Go-- took notice of it, and contrived to have me ſent to the monaſtry. The preſident found ways to come and viſit me there, and to declare his ſentiments. He took the opportunity of my mother-in-law's breeding, to offer me his hand and fortune, in caſe that ſhe ſhould be brought to bed of a ſon. An air of ſelf-conceit which ſhocks me whenſoever I obſerve it, and in particular

cular in the preſident, where it reigns to a ſuperlative degree; and what I knew of his intrigue with the marchioneſs, made me think his addreſſes exceeding diſagreeable, and even injurious.—Upon the birth of my brother, I had taken the reſolution to become a nun, rather than to marry the preſident. This ſtep would not have coſt me very dear. I had never yet ſeen you, my dear husband; I was in love with nothing. My ſiſter here, to whom I related all my uneaſineſſes, aſſured me, that Madam de Go—— would never permit that the preſident ſhould even obtain me of my father. In this interim you came. I was informed of the intereſt that you had taken in every thing that had happened to me. I was touched with gratitude for it; I ſaw you, and fancied that I diſcovered in you more than a ſimple regard for me; indeed I wiſhed it might be ſo. In talking of you to my ſiſter-in-law here, ſhe has diſcovered my thoughts; ſhe aſſured me that I was beloved to the height of

my

my wiſh; this made me ſoon forget the multitude of my ſorrows. When I came out of the convent, the kindneſs of the marchioneſs ſurpriſed me; I was ready to believe that ſhe was really altered and amended: but how well does all her late actions prove that deceitful and treacherous hearts are ſtill the ſame, even though engaged in actions of virtue? You may remember that ſome few days before our marriage, ſhe made me go into her cloſet. The preſident, ſaid ſhe to me, would marry you; he has ſaid ſomething of the affair to your father. I expect, whenever he ſhall happen to mention any thing on the ſubject to you, that you would tell him that you would chuſe rather to take the veil than accept of his hand; that you find in yourſelf a kind of antipathy to him, that would not be in your power to vanquiſh. I have my own reaſons for entertaining you with this diſcourſe; I know perfectly the bottom of the preſident's temper; and whatſoever attachment he may pretend to you, you would

would certainly be miſerable with him. I have ſomething better in view for you. I am not only deſirous of obviating your unhappineſs, but I wiſh to ſecure to you a life of happineſs; the pleaſures of which I ſhall ſhare with you, by the joy that I ſhall feel on having contributed to it. I promiſed her to obey her order with exactneſs; and that I ſhould not ſpeak contrary to my own inclination, in ſaying as ſhe had commanded me; that if my father had any deſire to compel me to it, I begged her to aſſiſt me. and that I depended on her good offices. The ſincerity with which I ſpoke convinced her that theſe were in reality my true ſentiments. She took my hand in a friendly and kind manner, and preſſed it. My daughter, ſaid ſhe to me, I have not talked to you after this manner, but becauſe I with that you ſhould be happy; I ſtudy for your good. She told me, my dear count, all the motions ſhe had made, to give ſucceſs to your marriage; and when leaving her, charged me never to ſpeak

of

of what had happened.---I plainly perceived that her ſcheme was to make it appear, that the refuſal that the preſident would receive, came immediately from myſelf. As I gave myſelf no concern about the matter, it was very indifferent to me whether he believed it or not; my father never mentioned the affair to me. I flattered myſelf that Madam de Go—— would leave me in repoſe; but the jealouſy which ſhe has rouſed in you on account of the preſident, makes me tremble. Let us no longer truſt, my dear count, to ſo treacherous a perſon; carry me to your eſtates. I ſhall never enjoy any tranquility till we are far removed from this place. You know how much I love you; the leaſt word that the marchioneſs ſhould ſay to you, would give me chagrin. Let us leave my ſiſter to carry on our ſuit. When the preſident ſhall ſee that we are departed, he will no longer hinder it from being determined. Do you conſent, my dear count, to what I ask of you? I anſwered her, that ſhe was abſolutely miſtreſs.

miſtreſs. We agreed that I ſhould pretend to have received a letter from one of my mother's ſervants, which informed me that ſhe was exceedingly ill; and that ſhe had given him orders to write to me, to ſet out as ſoon as poſſible.

We contrived this letter. The next day I went to ſhew it to the marchioneſs; ſhe took part in my concern; you are going then to leave us, my dear ſon? ſaid ſhe to me affectionately. I replied in the beſt manner that I was maſter of. I thought with reſpect to this lady, in a widely different manner from what I had done the laſt time that I had the honour of converſing with her. She believed that it was my mother's illneſs that took up my thoughts. My wife ſpoke to her father, recommended our law-ſuit to him, and told him, that my ſiſter ſtaid behind to purſue it. Our farewel to the marchioneſs did not coſt us much; but for Monſieur de Go—, I could not refrain from tears at parting from him. His lot affected me exceedingly;

ceedingly ; he deſerved indeed a lady far different from her that he had gotten. He would not bid adieu to his daughter. Love each other for ever, ſaid he to me in the midſt of his embraces ; a real affection is alone capable of making you amends for all the inconveniences of life : I ſhall be happy in proportion as you are ſo. Adieu, my ſon, adieu, aſſure your wife that it is not poſſible to love with more exquiſite tenderneſs than I love her. I had not ſtrength to make any reply to him. I went to embrace my ſiſter, who was exaſperated againſt the marchioneſs, becauſe it was her works that obliged us to depart. Manage your affairs even juſt as you pleaſe, brother, ſaid ſhe. I do aſſure you upon my word, that if in fifteen days I do not ſee your law-ſuit get forward, that then I leave it, and will go away to join you both. My wife adviſed her to addreſs herſelf to the preſident, and to make him ſome compliments from us. He was indeed ill at that time. We departed with joy ; it ſeemed in proportion

tion as we removed farther from Rouen, that we breathed more at our eaſe. We are going to be happy, cried my wife to me; we ſhall enjoy the pleaſures of mutual affection. No perſon will any more impoſe on the delights which we taſte in declaring it to each other. We arrived at length at the caſtle where I now reſide. How widely different in thoſe days, did it appear to me to what it does at this preſent, my dear chevalier! I then thought of nothing but of the happineſs which I had to poſſeſs in it; far removed from company; the woman I adored; every thing pleaſed in it, every thing there enchanted me, becauſe I knew that ſhe was in it; but now every thing declares to me that I have loſt her. At theſe words the tears dazzled his eyes, and ſtifled his voice; he was for a moment ſilent, and then reſumed his diſcourſe thus: My mother, to whom I had ſent no notice that I was coming, was greatly ſurprized at ſeeing me; ſhe ſhewed great friendſhip and reſpect to my wife; ſhe thought

thought her charming. I related to her all that ſhe had ſuffered in conſequence of my jealouſy: She highly praiſed my wife's conduct and behaviour in the affair; and aſſured her, that ſhe had no longer any of theſe diſtreſſes to be afraid of.

We received not the leaſt news from my ſiſter, which began to give us ſome uneaſineſs; when one day, as we were walking, we ſaw her arrive. My brother, ſaid ſhe to me, embracing me, permit me to ſpeak of the preſident; permit me to praiſe him; he is one of the moſt valuable men in the whole world; he has behaved to me like an angel. I ſmiled at the diſcourſe of my ſiſter, and asked her if the law-ſuit was determined? She anſwered me, that it was ended, and to our advantage. The preſident, although ill at the time, having been informed of our departure, had come the ſame day to the marchioneſs's houſe. My ſiſter, after having made him our compliments of farewel, had ſpoke to him concerning our law-ſuit, ſaying, that

my

my wife had directed her to apply to him, and that ſhe flattered herſelf that ſhe ſhould not be deceived by the confidence ſhe had in him. The preſident replied, that he wiſhed to find an opportunity of ſacrificing himſelf for her ſake. From to-morrow, ſaid he, I go to ſollicit that judgment which ſhe deſires. It is my deſire that all may be finiſhed this week; I will come and give you an account of all that I ſhall do in it.---Such were his words, and he has truly made them good, added my ſiſter; for by his ſollicitations the ſuit has been heard and determined intirely in your favour.---My wife deſired me to write to the preſident to return him thanks. I told her laughing, that it was ſhe who ought to charge herſelf with that office. I will do whatever you pleaſe, replied ſhe. I deſired her to do it, and accordingly ſhe wrote and brought me the letter, which I would not read; but ſhe ſo earneſtly preſſed me to ſee it, that I could not refuſe it. I wrote one likewiſe

wiſe myſelf; to which the preſident returned us the moſt obliging anſwers.

I led, my dear chevalier, a delightful life. I diſcovered every day new perfections in the temper and diſpoſition of my wife; ſhe was more gay than ever I had ſeen her at Rouen. I paſſed the days by her ſide, without ever finding one moment's wearineſs or care. She had a mind truly cultivated, and great diſcretion; ſhe judged with exactneſs and preciſion; thought with delicacy; and in every thing ſhe ſaid to me, a thouſand touches that ſhe knew how to diffuſe over her diſcourſe, gave me at once to underſtand as well her tenderneſs as my own happineſs. When I went out to the chace, one would have believed that I had parted from her for a long time. I never left her but with concern, and never reviſited her again, but with new rapture. She was big with child when ſhe departed from Rouen; ſhe was ſeized with a cough, which ſhe treated as a cold only. I ſaw her grow thin; ſhe told me that her breed-

ing was the cauſe of it; and I believed it ſo, becauſe I wiſhed it might. At length ſhe was delivered of a ſon, with a tolerable good time: I was exquiſitely happy; I asked the midwife what he thought of her cold; he replied, that it was nothing; that ſhe had tender lungs; and that in a ſhort time it would be proper for to drink milk. I took courage again on the aſſurances which this man gave me; but a month after, ſeeing that her illneſs increaſed; that ſhe ſpit very much, and that ſhe was fallen into an extreme melancholy; I conſidered with my ſiſter the methods we muſt take in order to get an opportunity of letting the phyſicians ſee her; for ſhe had taken ſuch an antipathy to this ſort of people, as ſurpaſſes all imagination. My ſiſter advertiſed me, that ſhe had heard my wife ſay, that ſhe intended to have her own picture drawn in miniature; that I had nothing to do but to pretend to know that there was a moſt celebrated painter at Avignon; then to go and ſend for a phyſician, to direct

him

him to perſonate as well as poſſible the character of a painter; to talk to my wife about her illneſs, as if by way of converſation; and, after having examined her, to ſay, that in a few days he would come again to draw her picture.

I followed my ſiſter's advice. I went to Avignon, and returned with a phyſician of great character and reputation. After having given him his leſſon, I conducted him to my wife's apartment. He acted his part perfectly well, very adroitly turned the converſation upon medicines, and declared that he was maſter of an infallible remedy for a defluxion and cough. I demanded in my turn what this remedy was; and, under this pretence, I related to him my wife's illneſs, and its progreſs. He left the room, telling me, that as ſoon as my wife ſhould be in better health, he would come to draw her picture. I followed him in company of my ſiſter, that I might learn from him what he thought of my wife's preſent ſituation; when one of

my mother's ſervants came to inquire for him; my ſiſter ſaid to me, that ſhe was going to accompany him to my mother's apartment, and that ſhe would not permit him to go away before he had talked with me; that I had better go back again to my wife, and ſee if ſhe had any ſuſpicion of the impoſture.--I did as ſhe directed me, and found the counteſs perfectly calm and eaſy. While I was chatting with her, it came into my head that they were going to interrogate the phyſician; and that if my wife was in danger, they would hide it from me. I became exceedingly uneaſy; I went up to my mother's apartments by a back ſtaircaſe, and finding a cloſet open that had a glaſs door, which looked into her chamber, I went up to it. I ſaw my ſiſter all in tears, and heard her ſay to the phyſician, At leaſt, Sir, is there nothing to be thought of that may alleviate the ſeverity of her diſorder, and give her ſome little eaſe? "It would "be in vain, mademoiſelle, replied the "phyſician, to torment her with medi-

"cine;

" cine; let her have every thing that
" ſhe ſhall have an inclination for;
" ſhe is now ſpitting up her lungs; I
" do not believe that ſhe can get over
" the vernal equinox. We are now
" at the firſt of March; ſhe cannot
" poſſibly hold out much longer."
The deſpair into which this diſcourſe threw me, made me ſink under the weight of my grief. I fell, fainting, and near dead, againſt a partition wainſcot. The noiſe of it brought in my mother, who at the ſight of me made no doubt but that I had heard the phyſician's fatal ſentence.---They brought me to my ſenſes by their care. My ſon, ſaid my mother, it is upon the moſt afflicting blows, that we ought to ſhew our conſtancy and reſolution. I know, from my own feeling, how grievous this unhappy accident muſt be to you; but, my dear child, would you, by your ſorrow and paſſionate concern, ſhorten the days of your wife? Conſtrain yourſelf: this is abſolutely neceſſary; and beſides, this phyſician is not the firſt who may have been de-

ceived. I ſubmitted to theſe reaſons; but think, O my dear chevalier, what was my condition at that time! I ſaw dying, before my eyes, the woman whom I adored. I was never out of her chamber; when I felt that I could no longer reſtrain my tears, I quitted the room. I was no ſooner at the door, than I reflected that I had ſeen her perhaps for the laſt time. I ſtarted in again as haſtily as poſſible to ſee her again yet once more.

One night when I was leaving her, ſhe deſired me to go myſelf to Avignon, to buy her ſome books which ſhe named to me. I promiſed her to do it. The next morning as ſoon as it was day I departed; at the end of three hours I returned. Although it was yet early, I found my mother and ſiſter both up; I went to carry up to my wife the books which ſhe had asked me for; ſhe opened one of them, and read in it. I was ſeated near her, and was looking attentively upon her. That faint and diſpirited look which warned me of my approaching misfortune,

fortune, gave me ſuch an oppreſſion at my heart, filled with bitterneſs and deſpair, that I could not conſtrain myſelf. I ſighed; ſhe lifted up her eyes from her book; What ails you, my dear friend? ſaid ſhe to me. I could not make any reply; I was too deeply pierced with ſorrow. The tears came into her eyes, ſhe ſaw what I thought. My mother had acquainted her with the condition ſhe was in; ſhe took my hands, which ſhe bathed with her tears. You will never forget me, my beloved count, ſaid ſhe, with an almoſt dying voice. I ſhall remain always in your heart, and I ſhall live in you for ever. Let us ſubmit to the Almighty power; we come to the world for nothing but to die. May you ſtill enjoy, my dear lord, the pleaſure that I feel in telling you that I love you. Love me evermore; it is the laſt, the only comfort I am capable of enjoying, in thus dying in the flower of my days---I would not any more leave my wife's apartment; I lay in it, and would not

ſuffer her to take any thing from any other hands but my own.

One night, when ſhe had appeared to me much worſe than uſual, ſhe told me that ſhe longed to eat a bit of hare, but that ſhe deſired it might be one of my own hunting. I asked my ſiſter to adviſe me what I ſhould do. She replied, that the phyſician had given leave that ſhe might eat whatever ſhe had an inclination for. I went out a hunting that inſtant. I found myſelf in a moſt uncommon agitation and diſorder. I ran up and down, without knowing what I did. I was like one who is hunted by purſuing enemies. In fine, I killed a hare, and returned to the caſtle. I went with aſtoniſhing ſwiftneſs; entering into the houſe, I found no body, not a ſervant appeared. I advanced to my wife's apartment; alas! what did I ſee, my dear chevalier? All the family was there. My mother ſupported her in her arms; death was painted on her face. As ſoon as ſhe eſpied me, tenderneſs once more

more reſumed its place in her countenance; and with a dying voice, ſhe cried, Ah, my dear count! for the laſt time do I behold you!---I ran to her, and I ſaw her laſt breath expire within my arms."---The Count de L----- abandoned himſelf to all the violence of his ſorrow, at this concluſion of his ſtory. As for me, I was too deeply moved with it, to attempt to give him any conſolation.

After having continued near a quarter of an hour without ſpeaking, he looked upon me, and ſaid, You ſee my dear chevalier, what love is; I am one of thoſe whom it has moſt favoured. I have never had any thing to reproach myſelf with during the courſe of my paſſion; by my marriage, it was become a duty. I loved a woman worthy of the moſt tender affection; I was beloved by her again; and I am doomed to mourning and lamentation for her loſs all the remainder of my days.---Her merit formed my happineſs for one year's ſpace; and it has been my affliction for theſe twenty

years paſt, and will continue to be the ſame to the laſt hour of my life.--Hope, the laſt bleſſing that we conſerve in the greateſt of our miſery, and the only one that is able to alleviate them, is a bleſſing from which I am totally debarred. The remembrance of that happineſs which I have formerly enjoyed, impoiſons all the pleaſures that I might be capable of taſting. I have no longer any ſenſe of any thing but ſorrow. Shun, my dear chevalier, all attachments to the ſex. Fly from Madam de P-----; devote not yourſelf to love; it makes us pay too dearly for the pleaſures that it affords us.---Occupy your mind with ſome employment; you will not enjoy, 'tis true, thoſe lively pleaſures, which the world imagines to make up the happineſs of life; but you will be in a ſtate of tranquility, and that is the only condition in which we may be truly happy.

We are always diſturbed when we are under the direction of our paſſions; and Wiſdom never takes up her reſidence in trouble and diſturbance. It

is

is tranquility that is her diſtinguiſhing character. But tell me, my dear count, replied I, is it not permitted us to be ſenſible to merit, or to virtue? Yes, cried he, but it is exceedingly difficult to preſerve any ſhare of tranquility, when we are in love with merit in the perſon of an amiable woman.---Every thing that we ſee in her flatters us, and we make no reſiſtance to whatever gives us an aſſurance of pleaſure.---In vain do we delude ourſelves, by ſaying in our thoughts, that the paſſion that we feel for an amiable woman is nothing but a ſentiment of juſtice, which obliges us to pay that homage to virtue, that is but merely her due.---Every thing ſeems to juſtify this opinion, but we are but ſo much the more to be pitied for it.---That diſeaſe is exceeding difficult to be cured, of whoſe cauſe we are intirely ignorant. Profit, my dear chevalier, by my example; come every day to my houſe, we will find ſomething to employ ourſelves I gave him my promiſe to do it, and we went back to the caſtle.---I asked him, if

mademoiſelle his ſiſter was yet alive. Yes, replied he, her marriage has removed her to a diſtance from me, and her letters are the only conſolation I have left.

I took leave at length of the count, and promiſed to come and viſit him every day; he embraced me affectionately and returned home. I made it a cuſtom afterwards to go and ſpend a part of the day at the count's caſtle; there I followed my ſtudies, and made my advantage of the lights and knowledge that the count himſelf had acquired; when one day returning to my reſidence, I found there a letter from my father.---He ſent me word that my brother was juſt dead, and commanded me to take poſt to return to him as ſoon as I ſhould have received his letter.

I went back to the count, to acquaint him with the news that I had juſt then received. My dear chevalier, ſaid he, embracing me, you are now become the heir of your houſe, but you are going to pay very dear for this advantage.

vantage. You will go to Paris, you will there ſee Madam de P-----. The bands that unite her to the marquis, and which form an invincible obſtacle to your happineſs, will but augment your paſſion, and your diſtreſſes.---But, my dear chevalier, if you think with delicacy, the ſufferings that you undergo for this amiable lady, ought to raiſe a dread in your thoughts, leſt ſhe ſhould be but too ſenſible of them. Endeavour not to diſturb her tranquility: You cannot without a crime make her acquainted with the love that you ſtill conſerve for her. If you have once dreaded the rendering yourſelf unworthy of yourſelf, merely out of a ſenſe of gratitude due from you to Monſieur de C---, every thing at this day ſhould yet more forcibly than before engage you to be ſilent.--- How deeply do I pity you! The more you ſhall deſerve to be happy, ſo much the more ſevere will be your ſufferings. Adieu, ſaid he to me; when you would ſooth and alleviate the deep ſenſe of your afflictions, think but on thoſe to which

I am

I am condemned; they are without a poſſibility of the leaſt relief. I promiſed the count, that as ſoon as I ſhould have executed my father's commands, I would come and do myſelf the honour to make him a viſit.---We did not part without ſhedding tears on either ſide. Notwithſtanding the little time that we had had to be acquainted with each other's diſpoſition, the ſituation in which we both found ourſelves; the reciprocal confidence that we had placed in each other, with reſpect to our affairs; all this had formed between us a friendſhip that ſtill ſubſiſts, and which will never be diſſolved but with my life itſelf. I departed next day, in order to viſit my father. He received me with infinite tenderneſs. I have no more but you, my child, ſaid he, embracing me, you are my only conſolation. Long did he hold me in his arms; when on my part I was unable to make him any reply but with my tears. He aſked me, if I knew the accident which had deprived me of my brother: No, my dear father, re-

plied I---He has by his own death, reſumed he, paid for the indulgence which he always ſhewed to his paſſions. Having repaired to his regiment about three weeks ago, the moment he came to Breſt, he inquired of his officers whether there were any pretty women there. They anſwered him, that there was a great number, but that ſhe, to whom the publick with great juſtice, gave the preference, was Mademoiſelle de E----, only daughter of the preſident of that name, who was going to be married to one of the firſt lords of that province.---He got himſelf introduced the next day at the preſident's; found the young lady charming, and formed a ſcheme to gain her heart. The preſident her father took notice of his deſigns, and was not in the leaſt diſpleaſed with them. The engagements he had entered into with reſpect to his daughter, did not appear to him to be of conſequence enough to confine him, and to hinder him from entering into others, provided that he could meet with any thing

thing more advantageous. My ſon was rich, and the eldeſt ſon of his family; he appeared to him a much preferable perſon to the gentleman whom he had firſt choſen for his ſon-in-law. The young lady followed, without knowing it, the inclination of her father.---My ſon knew that he was not hated. The gentleman who was to have married the young lady was every day at the preſident's houſe, but nothing was capable of laying your brother under any reſtraint. One day, when he was walking in a garden with Mademoiſelle de E----, he asked her, if the husband who was deſigned for her, was a perſon of her own choice? The young lady anſwered him, that ſhe obeyed the orders of her father. Ah, mademoiſelle! What do you ſay? replied my ſon. It is our hearts only that ought to direct us in theſe kinds of engagements, and not the orders of a father. What happineſs can you imagine in living with a man for whom you have no manner of affection? It is your fortune that he aims

aims at in marrying you. Have you never remarked with what coldneſs he approaches you? He is not capable of knowing, nor of feeling for you all that you merit: Yet, notwithſtanding this, you will make him happy; and as for me, who adore you, you will ſuffer me—— This is too much, cried out the gentleman to whom the lady was engaged. He had followed my ſon, and had heard all that he had juſt before been ſaying.---They drew their ſwords; and my ſon, your brother, was killed. The preſident, who at the noiſe had run into the garden, dreading the conſequences of this affair, had engaged an officer of the regiment to come and give me notice of this unhappy news.---In ſpite of all the tenderneſs that I had for my ſon, I was obliged to acknowledge that he had met with the fate he had merited; and to avoid the conſequences of this unhappy affair, it was reported that he died by a ſudden rupture of a blood veſſel. Your mother is inconſolable; we thought it proper to let her know

that we looked on the misfortune as a puniſhment for her conduct with reſpect to you; which has thrown her into ſuch a fit of deſpair as has brought upon her a violent fever. As I am apprehenſive that your preſence may but irritate her diſorder, I will not by any means mention your arrival to her, and you ſhall ſet out to-morrow for Paris.---You ſhall ask the marquis de P----'s advice upon the ſteps that you ought to take, in order to obtain the regiment of your brother. Although my ſiſter be no longer reſident at Paris, I am certain that her daughter will oblige her husband to do every thing in his power to ſerve you. You have ſaid very little of that lady to me in your letters, ſaid he; did ſhe not merit the encomiums that have been made of her? Ah! my dear father, replied I, with vivacity, there are no praiſes capable of expreſſing her merit: Nothing but an acquaintance with her can give you an idea of it. The animated air that appeared in me when I was thus ſpeaking, gave him

ſome

ſome ſuſpicion of the truth.---My ſon, ſaid he, looking ſteadily upon me; have you never failed in the duty that you owe to Madam de C----? No, my dear Sir, cried I, but your fears at my departure have been a true prediction of what has happened to me. I have not been able to refuſe my heart to Mademoiſelle de C---, and I have loved her from the firſt moment that I ſaw her. I gave my father an account of every thing that had paſſed. I painted out to him the character of this woman whom I adored.---My father liſtened to me with ſtrict attention. Charmed at the punctuality with which I had followed his counſels, and melting with compaſſion at the ſtate in which he ſaw me, My beloved child, ſaid he to me, how perfectly am I ſatisfied with your conduct! Your ſentiments highly juſtify that affection and eſteem which I bear towards you. Perſevere to the laſt: You are not indeed happy, but you truly deſerve to be ſo: You have nothing to reproach yourſelf with; and this reflexion

flexion ought to alleviate a part of your ſorrows. At your time of life to be maſter over your paſſion! what a happy preſage is it for the time to come! How truly are you worthy to be eſteemed! Feel, my dear child, a part of your father's joy. We paſſed the whole day in converſations of this kind.

The illneſs of my mother became more violent. They came running to my father to tell him that ſhe was dying. He flew to her bed-ſide: I followed him; but ſhe was no longer ſenſible of our attention; and we had the grief to ſee her die that very night.

Although my affairs ſeemed indiſpenſably to call me to Paris, I would not leave my father alone in his preſent ſtate of affliction. I ſtaid with him eight days; in which interval he received letters from the Marquis and Marchioneſs de P----. In thoſe of the marquis, he found that he had made the proper application to obtain for me the grant of the regiment that was my late brother's; that he depended on my having it; but that

there

there was a neceſſity for my repairing to Paris without loſs of time.

The next day I quitted my father. Take the greateſt care of your conduct, my dear ſon, ſaid he, embracing me; contract no intimacy but with ſelect acquaintance. Debauched and evil company make that impreſſion in youth that is never to be effaced. Among ſuch we frequently hear commended ſuch things as ought rather to make us bluſh than to raiſe our applauſe; there is nothing ſo dangerous. It is exceeding difficult when praiſes and commendation pour in upon us, to diſtinguiſh with exactneſs, whether they are real or counterfeit. This was the misfortune of your brother. Under the gentle name of amiable follies we pardon almoſt every thing in youth, and it is this that becomes the fatal cauſe of the diſorders of life. Adieu, my dear ſon, let me not be deceived in my hopes. I ſhould think that I did you injuſtice, were I to recommend to you a continuance of your diſcretion, with regard to Madam de P----. Your

conduct

conduct in the paſſed ought to make me eaſy for the time to come. I promiſed him always to obey the dictates of his counſels, and departed. Being arrived at Paris, I repaired to the Marquis de P-----'s; he lived in the ſame houſe that had been before occupied by Madam de C----, who was now in the country. Alas! Sir, how different was this houſe become in my ſight, to what it once appeared! In what condition was I at my entrance into it! With what reflections was I not oppreſſed! What efforts was I not compelled to make, to be able to conſtrain my anguiſh!---The marquis advanced towards me with an air of friendſhip and affection: he was touched with the condition in which he ſaw me. I was indeed ſo extremely altered, as hardly to be known for the ſame perſon I once was. The loſſes which I had lately undergone, of my mother, and my brother, were the chief ſubject of our converſation. Madam de P-.-- had not yet heard of my arrival; ſhe came in to ſay ſomething to her husband.—

husband.---It is not in my power to tell you, what were my thoughts at that moment. Such things are to be felt alone, they cannot be expreſſed.—Joy and deſpair, all filled my thoughts, and all found room within my mind. My ſight ſurpriſed Madam de [illegible]---; her's rendered me immoveable [illegible] me and embrace the chevalier, cried the marquis to her; aid me to comfort him. That grief in which I ſee him plunged, gives him a high merit in my opinion.--I went up to the marchioneſs. I took her hands, which I kiſſed; ſhe embraced me, and touched at the ſtate in which ſhe ſaw me, her fine eyes were filled with tears. What poiſon, Monſieur, for me!---The marquis told me, that he intended I ſhould occupy my old apartment.---You ſhall keep my wife company, ſaid he. I accepted his offer, firmly promiſing in my own mind, never to betray the confidence that he had placed in me.

Madam de P--- ſaw very little company: although it was not the marquis's temper to be jealous, he was old, had

a young

a young an dbeautiful wife, and he knew by experience the ways of the world, and the dangers to which the very beſt diſpoſitions find themſelves expoſed. He was ſatisfied with the virtue of his wife, but he would not put her to the danger of a trial. The leſs one merits to be deceived, ſays he, the more eaſily one is betrayed. We always judge of others by ourſelves; and it is this circumſtance that proves ſo dangerous to thoſe perſons who have no ill in their thoughts. He had for his wife a tenderneſs, and ſuch attentions and reſpect, as notwithſtanding all his merit, I never could have thought him capable of. That grave countenance diſappeared whenever he was in her preſence. I hear you praiſed by all the world, ſaid he to her one day in my hearing, but how faint are thoſe praiſes, when compared with ſuch as are your due, from thoſe who are more perfectly acquainted with your merit!---It is not this merit, that virtue which I adore in you, that forms the object of theſe praiſes which they beſtow upon you. It is thoſe charms that you regard as

an indifferent thing that the leaſt trifle may deſtroy. There is this one point however on which they remonſtrate; there is not a heart capable of loving you as you deſerve to be loved. I aſk but yours only to be happy, my lord, replied ſhe. You are then happy, my dear wife, cried he: but how melancholy is it for me to be ſixty years old! Madam de P-----, by her pleaſing manners, was always giving him ſome proof of her deep ſenſe of the affection that he had for her. This behaviour of her's threw me into agonies of paſſion and deſpair. She loves him, ſaid I; ill would it become me to endeavour to diſturb her felicity. I muſt be contented to adore her in ſilence. How bleſt is he! and oh! how much am I to be lamented!

The marquis carried me to Verſailles. By his diligence I obtained the regiment of my brother; he laboured on this occaſion in the affair, as if I had been his own ſon. How deeply ſhould I have loved him, if he had not been the husband of Mademoiſelle

de C----. I returned from Verſailles before him. He had ſome buſineſs to do there, and he deſired that I ſhould ſet out before him in order to keep his wife from being alone.

I ſtayed all the whole day in company with the marchioneſs. I ſaw her oppreſſed with a ſadneſs that pierced my very ſoul. Her beauty ſeemed to me even more ſtriking than before, inſtead of being impaired by it. She had no longer that tranquil countenance, but a languiſhing air that would have melted down to love the coldeſt heart in the whole world. Oftentimes I was ſo taken up with the pleaſure of gazing upon her, that when ſhe ſpoke to me, I forgot to make her any reply: ſhe ſought the meaning of it in my eyes; and I read her confuſion and embarraſſment in her own. I quitted the room that very moment; I could not even have any dependance on my own reſolution, in that ſtate of diſorder wherein I now was.---The marquis being returned from Verſailles, and ſeeing his wife in a deep melancholy,

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propoſed to her an excurſion into the country. The chevalier ſhall go with us, ſaid he to her; he is not obliged to repair to his regiment till after a month. Madam de P----- anſwered him, that ſhe would do whatever was moſt agreeable to him; and that ſhe ſhould be delighted to paſs that time with her mother.

We ſet out, and found madam de C--- overwhelmed with ſorrow for the death of her husband, the news of which ſhe had but juſt before received. Accuſtomed to the enjoyment of a noble fortune, Monſieur de C----- had not been able to ſupport the loſs of it. Madam de P----, by ſharing the affliction of her mother, aſſuaged the violence of it. As for me, the concern that I neceſſarily had in this loſs, aſſiſted me to conceal the true cauſe of my chagrin.

It was now three weeks that we had been in the country, when one day two of Monſieur de P----'s particular ſtiends being come to dine with him. We went to walk as ſoon as dinner

was over. Madam de C-----, and the marchioneſs, left the company. A moment after I felt a great uneaſineſs; I left the company to go and find them; having ſearched for them all over the garden in vain, I came near to a ſaloon, at the four corners of which there was a little cloſet. I heard the voice of perſons talking; and ſeeing a window open, I got up to it by creeping in cloſe to the palliſadoes. I heard Madam de P——, who with a voice accompanied with tears, ſaid, I am unworthy of your kindneſs, madam. I betray the tenderneſs of Monſieur de P—. What would he think, were he acquainted with the crime that is harboured in my breaſt. Yes, madam, I love him; all the efforts that I have made, have not been capable of conquering my paſſion. Take pity on me, madam. What is become of all your reſolution, my dear daughter, replied Madam de C—. The manner with which you have eſpouſed the marquis, had given me the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of your tranquility. Ah, ma-

dam! what a difference is there between the ſituation in which I found myſelf at that time, reſumed the marchioneſs; and that in which I now am at this day? All occupied with the miſeries of my father, ſeeing his fortune ruined, and the chevalier without an eſtate, I thought of nothing but of ſacrificing myſelf to engage Monſieur de P— to ſave my family. But at preſent, your misfortunes are at an end; the chevalier is wealthy, and I am the wife of Monſieur de P——- This obſtacle, which ought to ſubdue my paſſion, does but irritate it rather; as I am convinced of the love that the chevalier bears for me. A hundred times have I been ready to beg him to remove from hence. But, deareſt madam, what ſtratagem, what pretence, could I have made uſe of? Should I have been able to have ſpoke to him about his paſſion, without diſcovering to him by my embarraſſment that I am in love with him. I avoid looking upon him; when my eyes by chance meet his, I there read his love. Oblige him to depart;

you ſee my weakneſs. You anſwer me nothing, madam. Does my crime render me unworthy even of your pity?

Has the chevalier failed at any time in the reſpect that is due to your character, ſaid Madam de C—— to her daughter? Never, never, madam, replied ſhe, and his diſcretion does but augment my eſteem for him. What would become of me, if Monſieur de P— ſhould happen to diſcover how deeply I am affected? Tranquillize yourſelf, my dear child, ſaid madam de C—— to her; I give you my word that I will compel the chevalier to depart hence; in twenty-four hours he ſhall be no longer here. Do not ſuffer yourſelf to be ſo much caſt down: Your ſadneſs alarms your husband; you well know his tenderneſs for you. Render yourſelf worthy of his affection at leaſt, by the efforts that you ſhall make to conceal from him, that you anſwer not his paſſion by an equal degree of tenderneſs. I then heard Madam de P—, relieved by the confeſſion hat ſhe had juſt made to Madam de

C—,

C----, get ready to go and rejoin her company; and as for myſelf, I conſidered how I ſhould get away again, without being ſeen and diſcovered. I got out of the place wherein I had ſtood, and retired to the moſt ſolitary and private place in all the park. I was in the moſt violent agitation. I would have given my life in the morning, to have learned from the mouth of Madam de P—, that ſhe was not ignorant of my paſſion; and that her heart was touched with equal tenderneſs. All this was juſt come to paſs; and yet, pierced as I was by the diſorder, and by the ſorrow in which I had ſeen her, I was not capable of enjoying my good fortune. What mortal is more bleſt, and yet, what mortal more to be lamented than I! ſaid I in my thoughts. I am beloved by the moſt charming of all women, and yet I am compelled to fly from her preſence. I am born under ſo unfortunate a planet, that if any good fortune chances to happen to me it is only for me to find a ſource of torments and affliction. O Love! are theſe

then thy ſweets; how much were you in the right, my dear count, to tell me that I muſt avoid it by flying from it! But, ah! who could do it, knowing like me the fair one whom I adore? I am beloved by her; how bleſt! how happy am I! To-morrow I muſt depart from her; I ſhall die when remote from her.

But I regret not the ſacrifice of my life to her, after an acknowledgement ſo delightful for me; ſhe loves me. I ought not to demand any thing more. I walked about the whole day long. They came for me to go to ſupper; I went thither, and took a reſolution of rendering myſelf worthy of the ſentiments that Madam de P—— had entertained for me, by conforming in the moſt minute circumſtance to the orders of her mother, whatſoever effort it ſhould coſt me to perform it. I found all the company ſat down to table; they reproached me with my retreat; I made the beſt excuſe in anſwer that was in my power. I gazed upon Madam de P—, my thoughts all engaged

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in meditating on the neceſſity there was for my diſtant removal. That air of heavineſs and ſorrow that I wore in my countenance, occaſioned the marquis to ask me, whether I did not find myſelf indiſpoſed? I anſwered him, that I found myſelf ill, and that I had beſides an inclination to go to bed. I wiſhed them a good night, and withdrew.

When I was got into my chamber, I gave myſelf up to all my ſorrow; I was ſeized with a ſhivering fit. Felix went to inform Madam de C--- of the ſituation I was in. She came up to me immediately. What is the matter with you, my dear chevalier? ſaid ſhe to me, haſtily. I am going to ſend for a phyſician for you. Let me alone, madam, replied I to her. To day I die happy here; and remote from hence I ſhould die forlorn. Envy me no more the happineſs of ending my days thus near to her whom I adore. At the end of thoſe words, I fainted away. Madam de C — ſtaid by me all the night long. The marquis came up, and was very deſirous of keeping

her company. Go out of the room, ſaid ſhe to him, the air perhaps may be dangerous; and do not for the future come near this chamber, till we know what the illneſs is. Prevent your wife from coming here likewiſe. Her foreſight on this occaſion was a great mark of her prudence. I recovered not from my ſwoon without a fever; the violent heat of which made me extremely delirious. Always occupied with my paſſion, I fancied that I ſaw Madam de P—— before me; I ſwore to her an eternal affection. She appeared to me, to endeavour to fly from me, and I was eager to follow her. I made attempts to riſe out of bed; and had it not been for the diligence of Madam de C—, I ſhould have hurt myſelf in the extraordinary agitation that poſſeſſed me. I remained in this ſtate for three days; and it was ſucceeded by a prodigious weakneſs. The goodneſs of my conſtitution, and my great youth, enabled me to ſupport ſo many ills all at one time When Madam de C—— ſaw me calm and tranquil enough to be

able

able to talk to me, ſhe laid before me all my duties. Do you yourſelf aſſiſt my daughter, and enable her to vanquiſh her paſſion, ſaid ſhe; for I had acknowledged to her, that I had overheard the converſation of Madam de P—. It is an effort that your virtue demands of you. Be not inſenſible of the trouble that you occaſion to a woman ſo reſpectable as ſhe is by her conduct. Labour yourſelf to reſtore her tranquility; fly far from hence, and avoid giving her the leaſt hint that you are not ignorant of what paſſes in her thoughts. Her tenderneſs for you renders her miſerable enough already; do not by your conduct add to the weight of her ſuffering.

A letter from my father, and another from the count de L—, adviſing me to repair to my regiment, joined to the diſcourſes of Madam de C—, engaged me to make her a promiſe, that ſo ſoon as ever the fever ſhould have left me, I would depart from the marquiſs's. As ſoon as I was able to

go out of my chamber, I went to return thanks to the marquis for all his attentions and regard. A defluxion had confined him to his chamber. How greatly am I delighted, my dear chevalier, to ſee you recovered again! ſaid he to me. You have given us the moſt cruel apprehenſions and diſquiet. The cares and attentions of Madam de C— have convinced you of her friendſhip for you; but our own affection for you is in no point inferior to her's. The affliction which both Madam de P—, and myſelf have felt on your account, has made us ſenſible how great a love we entertain for you. He took great pains to aſſure me of the tenderneſs of his wife; the good opinion that he had of me, had prevented him from being the leaſt jealous of her. Talking one day of young people, on the ſubject of love. There is nothing to be feared from the chevalier, ſaid he, I am well acquainted with his virtue. Notwithſtanding all his experience and his penetration, he never once

once recollected that a perſon may be exceeding virtuous, and exceeding tender at the ſame time.

After having teſtified to the marquis how ſincerely I was touched with a ſenſe of all his generoſity; I told him that I intended in two days to go and join my regiment. Stay till we go too, replied he; as ſoon as ever my defluxion ſhall be gone off, we ſhall return to Paris ourſelves. Keep us company till that time; you are not well enough recovered to undertake a journey.

I was deſirous, as I made myſelf believe, to remove myſelf to a diſtance from the marchioneſs; but the leaſt obſtacle that offered itſelf to hinder me from it, threw me into a rapture, that gave me but too well to underſtand the efforts that I muſt be compelled to make, to induce myſelf to do it. Madam de C----- was vexed at what the marquis had ſaid to me; I aſſured her, that ſhe had no reaſon to be under any apprehenſion; and I promiſed her, that during the whole time that I ſhould remain, I would not ſee Madam de

P—,

P—, but in her company; and I exactly obſerved the promiſes I had made her.

Every thing was now in readineſs for my departure; but the marquis's defluxion, inſtead of amending, was greatly augmented. He found himſelf ſo greatly oppreſſed, that he was reſolved to be blooded, which gave him relief for a few hours; he fell aſleep, and the oppreſſion was greatly increaſed after it. Madam de C—— ſent for the moſt eminent phyſicians of the country. There came four of them, who all with one voice declared that he muſt loſe blood very plentifully; that our only hope lay in bleeding him. We were under a neceſſity of ſubmitting to it. Madam de P------ trembling for the life of her husband, ſent away an expreſs to Paris to fetch her husband's own phyſician. In the mean time, they were obliged to bleed the marquis three times. He found himſelf ſo weak after the third operation, that he begged Madam de C---- to oblige his lady to retire. When ſhe

was

was gone out, he gave a particular account of all his affairs to Madam de C——; he gave her abundance of valuable effects for his wife; and ſtrictly charged Madam de C----, that as ſoon as ever ſhe ſhould ſee that there were no longer any hopes of his recovery, ſhe ſhould conſtrain the marchioneſs to leave the caſtle. You will render me equal ſervice with her, madam, ſaid he to her; ſhe only compels me to regret the loſs of my life. I have been unfortunate near threeſcore years. For three months paſt I have been happy; and now I muſt die, added he, ſighing. My wife's future deſtiny would give me uneaſineſs, if ſhe had not been ſo fortunate as to have you with her ſtill. But I know, madam, the tenderneſs you have for her; continue to exert the ſame kind diſpoſition for her always. She will perhaps chuſe herſelf another husband, and the only fear that I have is, leſt ſhe ſhould not meet with ſuch a man as may be worthy of her. That delicacy of ſentiment that I have obſerved in her, will render her

her more to be pitied than any other perſon.

The phyſician who had been ſent for from Paris, at length arrived. I conducted him to the marquis's apartment. As ſoon as he ſaw him, he aſſumed a ſorrowful air; he felt his pulſe, but ſpake not a word. We waited with impatience for his ſpeaking. The marquis was not at a loſs for the meaning of this ſilence, and with an undaunted and reſolute voice, thus ſpoke: I am ſorry, knowing that you love me, ſaid he to the phyſician, for having deſired you to come hither ſo far; I conceive all that you have to tell me. And then holding out his hand to him, Adieu, ſaid he to him, you are at liberty to return again to Paris. The phyſician at his going out from the apartment, aſſured me, that the marquis could not ſurvive that night.

I went to look after Madam de P--. What does the phyſician think? demanded ſhe: He thinks, madam, replied I, that the marquis is very dangerouſly ill. At that moment, they came

came running to tell her that the marquis deſired her to come to his bed-ſide. I followed her thither; ſhe herſelf was all diſſolved in tears. As ſoon as the Marquis de P------- ſaw her, he extended his hand to her; Afflict not yourſelf, my dear good wife, ſaid he to her; that grief with which I ſee you oppreſſed, would itſelf be ſufficient to give me my death.

He demanded of her a ſolemn promiſe, that ſhe would perform exactly what Madam de C--- ſhould tell her from him; and for this purpoſe to retire to her own chamber. The marchioneſs obeyed; her grief and her tears took from her the power of ſpeech. Monſieur de P---, who had death painted on his countenance, looked on her with an air of affliction that pierced me through. Follow my wife, my dear chevalier, ſaid he to me, permit her not to abandon herſelf to the violence of her grief. Be quick and go, let her not depart without you. I embraced him, and left the room. I was under an affliction that I ſhould never

never have believed poſſible, in the time when he was in perfect health. I found Madam de P---, whom they compelled into the coach. A prieſt, whom ſhe had met on her quitting her husband's apartment, had given her a ſufficient explanation of the meaning of this departure. I may have ſeen him for the laſt time, cried ſhe to Madam de C—, who bid her recollect that ſhe had but juſt before promiſed her huſband to do whatever ſhe ſhould be directed by his order. In fine, ſhe got up into the coach with me, and one of her women; we went about half a league off, to the caſtle of one of the marquis's friends. This friend happened not to be at home; but the porter knew Madam de P—. A ſervant came every hour to inform us how the marquis did from time to time. At length there arrived one whoſe ſorrowful air gave us to underſtand that Monſieur de P---- was no longer to be numbered among the living; in fact he had juſt expired. This news threw Madam de P—— into a condition that pierced me with

with the moſt lively ſorrow. Madam de C--- arrived a few hours after.—When Madam de P--- ſaw her, ſhe threw herſelf into her arms; they wept together. Madam de C--- begged me to return to the caſtle, there to ſee executed the orders that ſhe had given among the ſervants. I departed, and ſtayed at the marquis's two whole days. When the obſequies of the marquis were performed, I then returned to attend Madam de C—.

My mind was now full of the moſt flattering hopes; knowing that I was beloved by the marchioneſs, and having experienced how indulgent and favourable Madam de C— was towards me, I depended upon being arrived at the end of all my diſtreſſes. The marchioneſs was now at liberty, and had it in her power to recompenſe my paſſion. I reſpected her too much to ſay a word to her on the ſubject, while ſhe remained in her preſent ſituation. My deſign was to follow her to Paris, to aſſiſt her to diſengage herſelf from the buſineſs and diſputes that ſhe might have

have to ſettle with the heirs of Monſieur de P----.

The evening before our departure, Madam de C--- ordered me to be told, that ſhe wanted to ſpeak with me. I waited on her at her apartment. Chevalier, ſaid ſhe to me, you are too well acquainted with the ſentiments of my daughter, for me to pretend to conceal from you, that you have room to flatter yourſelf with hopes; but notwithſtanding the tenderneſs that ſhe has for you, and with which you ſeem perfectly acquainted; the deſign which you ſeem to have taken of following her to Paris gives the alarm to her delicacy. You have lived together for a long time; the public is apt to take dangerous impreſſions. They might believe that your marriage was but the recompenſe of an old paſſion and amour. Set out to-morrow for your regiment. I myſelf will take care of your intereſts here. Ah, madam, anſwered I, I am happy enough to be loved by Madam de P——; and does ſhe deſire to imbitter all my happineſs!

neſs! What is ſhe afraid of? Is it the imagination of the public that our virtue depends on? I am perſuaded, replied Madam de C—, that you well know the virtue of my daughter. But, chevalier, if you had lived longer in the world, you would ſee that what Madam de P-- thinks is perfectly juſt. She owes reſpect to her character, were it but only with regard to you; that a woman may be eſteemed by her huſband, it is requiſite that ſhe ſhould be eſteemed by the public. It was with great difficulty that I could be brought to approve of theſe reaſons, which conſtrained me to forſake all that I adored. Madam de C—— gave me her promiſe, that ſhe would engage her daughter to ſhorten the time of my baniſhment. After having made my acknowledgement for her kindneſſes, I told her that I would obey her commands; and that I would depart at the ſame time with herſelf. The next day, as ſoon as I knew that I might ſee Madam de P—, I went to her apartment; I threw myſelf at her feet. I am going, madam,

to

to my regiment, ſaid I; after the happineſs with which I have been flattered, you will pardon me a complaint which the exceſs of my love compels me to make? I remove far from your preſence, and it is by your own command. Promiſe me at leaſt, madam, that you will have compaſſion on the diſtreſſes that my removal is now going to make me ſuffer; and that you will be ſo generous as to abridge the time of my exile.

Her anſwer, monſieur, gave me to underſtand how much I was beloved by her in return. Perſuaded of the friendſhip that her mother had for me, ſhe told me, that ſhe ſhould follow her directions with reſpect to the time of my return. At length I departed, aſſured of being beloved by her whom I adored; and in the hope of ſoon poſſeſſing her, I wrote my father an account of this happy news. He gave me notice that he was going to ſet out for Paris; that he would labour to his utmoſt, to haſten my happineſs; and that he purpoſed to ſpend the remainder of his days in our company.

At

At the end of a year I received permiſſion to return. I took poſt that very moment; I arrived at Paris with one valet de chambre. As I had not taken any reſt upon the road, my father was ſurpriſed to ſee me; he conducted me himſelf to the marchioneſs's apartment. What pleaſure did I taſte, monſieur, at the ſight of that beloved lady? The hope and expectation of my approaching happineſs made me give a looſe to tranſports that perfectly well deſcribed the exceſs, and the perfection of my love. In eight days after we were married. I can now ſincerely aſſure you, that I believe myſelf the happieſt of men. I find in Madam de T--- every thing that I can deſire. She is my wife and my miſtreſs; ſhe is yet ſomething better; ſhe is a tender friend, whoſe virtues aſſure to me the continuance of my happineſs. I flatter myſelf, monſieur, that at your return from Paris, you will be an eye-witneſs yourſelf of the felicity which I poſſeſs.

FINIS.

BIBL CANT ACAD